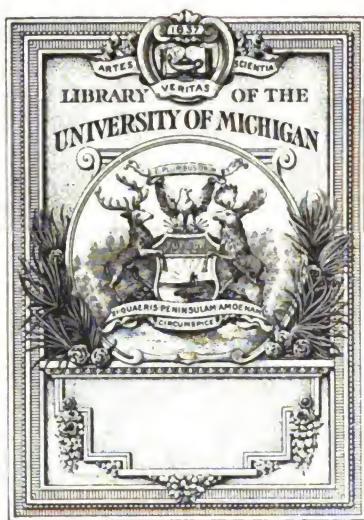


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Henry James Esq.

London, England, 1851.

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INDEX.

GENERAL BANKING ARTICLES AND STATISTICS.

- America, Railway and Monetary Crisis in, 601.
 American Banking, 193.
 American Counterfeit Notes, 122.
 American Forgeries, 729.
 American Manufactures, 623.
 American Railway Defalcations, 494.
 American State Stocks and Bonds, 288 (56).
 Australia, Trade and Banking in, 117.
 Australian Banks, The, 254.
 Australian Banking Interest, The, 367.
 Austrian Banking Facilities, 742.
- Bank Charter Act, The, 124.
 Bank Charter, Renewal of the, 724.
 Bank Meetings, The, 383.
 Bank Meetings, The Half yearly, 96.
 Bank Movements, 54, 107, 163, 219, 283, 347, 412, 476, 532, 597, 708, 765.
 Bank Rate of Discount, Advance in, 305.
 Bank Rate of Discount, Reduction in, 500.
 Bank Returns, Summary of, in each number.
 Bank, The, under Sir R. Peel's Act, 481.
 Bank of England, Operations of the, 446.
 Bank of England Returns, Weekly, in each number.
 Bank of England, The, and the Government, 354.
 Bank of France Returns, 43, 85, 142, 202, 259, 327, 418, 471, 506, 546, 637, 710, 749.
 Bankers' Weekly Circulation Returns, in each number.
 Banking Hours, Alteration of, 132, 190.
 Banking in Australia, Progress of, 488.
 Banking in France, 133.
- Bankruptcy Administration, 541.
 Bankruptcy Reform, 290.
 Bill Forgeries, 204.
 Bullion, Exports of, 627.
- Carolus Dollars, Coinage of, 507.
 Chambers and Son's Bankruptcy, 173.
 Chartered Bank of India, Australia, and China, 206, 254.
 Class Banks, 186.
 Clearing House, The, 192, 254, 326, 384.
 Colonial Banks, The New, 334.
 Commercial Credit Assurance, 288 (47).
 Consols at Eighty-five, 232.
 Contractors' Liabilities, 288 (5).
 Corn Trade, Review of the, in each number.
 Currency, the Laws of, 627.
 Customs Duties, Payment of by Cheques, 540.
- Diminished Country Circulation, 258.
- East India Remittances, 54, 110, 166, 233, 287, 350, 416, 480, 536, 600, 711, 768.
 Emigration, Statistics of, 545.
 English Funds, Daily Price of, in each number.
 English, Scottish, and Australian Chartered Bank, The, 181.
 European Specie Movements, 631.
 Exchanges, The, quoted in each number.
 Exchequer Bonds, The issue of, 245, 312, 363.
- Failed Firms, Balance-sheets of, 744.
 Fictitious Warrants, Advances on, 504.
 Fictitious Warrants, Circulation of, 437, 622.

- Fire Insurance, [416](#).
 Foreign and Colonial Bank Charters, [448](#).
 Foreign Loans, Negotiation of, [180](#).
 Frankfort Bank, The Statutes of the, [322](#).
 French Loan, The, [251](#).
 Funds, Prices of, in each number. —

 Geach, Mr. C., Memoir of the late, [721](#).
 General Manager, The, [372](#).
 Gilbert Prize Essay, The, [345](#).
 Gladstone, Mr., and the Stags, [301](#).
 Government Finance, [169](#).
 Government Financial Difficulties, [226](#).
 Government Stocks, Commutation of, [194](#).
 Guaranteed West India Loans, [366](#).

 Half-Yearly Meetings. The, [440](#).
 Harvest of 1854, The, [427](#).
 Holmes's Bank, Isle of Man, [37](#).

 Irish Bank Returns, in each number.

 Joint-Stock Banks, Limited Liability in, [441](#).
 Joint-Stock Banks, Metropolitan, The, [505](#).
 Joint-Stock Banks, Rise and Progress of, [347](#), [658](#).
 Joint-Stock Bank Shares, Prices of, in each number.

 Law of Partnership, The, [421](#).
 Law of Partnership, The Report on, [357](#).
 Limited Liability in Joint-Stock Banks, [441](#).
 Liverpool Failures, The, [614](#).
 Luard, Mr. Henry, Biographical Sketch of, [1](#).

 Mercantile Defaults, [417](#).
 Mercantile Suspensions, [234](#), [323](#), [385](#), [439](#), [503](#), [569](#), [617](#), [755](#).
 Metropolitan Joint-Stock Banks, [505](#).
 Mints, The English, French and American, [136](#).
 Money Market, The, in each number.
 Money Market, The General State of, [288](#) (45).
 Money Market, The Position and Prospects of, [537](#).
 Monmouthshire and Glamorganshire Bank, [80](#).
 Monthly Chronology, in each number.

 New Foreign Loans, [364](#).
 New Gold Discoveries, [303](#).
 New Railway Bill, Mr. Cardwell's, [288](#) (1).

 North Western Bank of India, [29](#).
 Notices to Correspondents, in each number.

 Old and New Year, The, [11](#).
 Operations of the Bank of England, [446](#).

 Panic Prices, The *Times* on, [242](#).
 Parliamentary Financial Debates, [297](#).
 Partnership, The Law of, [421](#).
 Partnership, The Report on the Law of, [357](#).
 People's Investments, [608](#).
 Post Office Revenue, The, [447](#).
 Prices of the Funds, in each number.
 Prices of Joint-Stock Bank Shares, in each number.
 Progress of 1853, [66](#).
 Provincial Fire and Life Insurance (Companies of Wales), [588](#).
 Pseudo Foreign Bills of Exchange, [58](#).
 Public Balances, The Position of the, [283](#) (7).

 Railway Interest of the United Kingdom, The, [288](#) (23), [670](#).
 Railway Meetings, [288](#) (25), [673](#).
 Railways, Official Report on, [671](#).
 Reviews, [55](#), [167](#), [282](#), [412](#), [474](#), [597](#).
 Royal Bank of Australia, The, [435](#).
 Russia, The Finances of, [732](#).
 Russian Paper Money, [135](#).

 Savings Banks, The, [77](#), [189](#), [328](#).
 Scotch Bank Returns, in each number.
 South Sea Company, The, [229](#), [365](#), [432](#).
 Specie Movements in America, [24](#).
 Stamp Act, The, [28](#).
 Stamp Duty on Bills of Exchange, &c., [302](#).
 Supply of Food and Range of Prices, [60](#).

 Trade, State of, in each number.
 Turkish Loan, The Negotiation of, [502](#), [718](#).
 Turkish Loan, The Failure of, [253](#).

 United Guarantee and Life Assurance Company, [288](#) (51).
 United Kingdom, The Circulation of, in each number.
 United Kingdom, The Trade of, [21](#), [82](#), [196](#), [239](#), [323](#), [370](#), [444](#), [507](#), [566](#), (18, 739).

 War Budget, The, [182](#).
 War Budget, The Supplemental, [317](#).
 War, The Prospects of the, [113](#), [713](#).

REPORTS OF JOINT-STOCK BANKS.

- Agra and United Service, [335](#), [652](#).
 Australian Joint-Stock, [267](#).
 Bank of Australasia, [44](#), [395](#).
 Bank of Bombay, [270](#), [652](#).
 Bank of Brazil, [391](#), [586](#).
 Bank of British North America, [392](#).
 Bank of England, [209](#), [578](#).
 Bank of Ireland, [44](#), [394](#).
 Bank of Madras, [526](#).
 Bank of New South Wales, [456](#).
 Bilston District Banking Company, [151](#).
 Birmingham Banking Company, [211](#),
 [581](#).
 Birmingham District Banking Company,
 [580](#).
 Birmingham and Midland, [579](#).
 Carlisle and Cumberland Banking Com-
 pany, [152](#).
 Carlisle City and District, [156](#), [524](#).
 Chartered Bank of Asia, [524](#).
 Colonial Bank, [102](#), [581](#).
 Commercial Bank of India, [390](#).
 Commercial Bank of London, [470](#).
 Commercial Banking Company of Sid-
 ney, [268](#).
 Cumberland Union Bank, [579](#).
 Devon and Cornwall Banking Company,
 [266](#).
 English, Scottish, and Australian, Char-
 tered, [213](#), [583](#).
 Ionian Bank, [400](#).
 Leicestershire Banking Company, [155](#).
 Leicestershire Banking Company (Pares'),
 [150](#).
 London and County Banking Company,
 [145](#).
 London Chartered of Australia, [400](#),
 [736](#).
 London Joint-Stock, [101](#), [462](#).
 London and Westminster, [98](#), [468](#).
 Mercantile Bank of India, London, and
 China, [758](#).
 National Bank of Ireland, [342](#).
 National Provincial Bank of England,
 [339](#).
 Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Bank-
 ing Company, [581](#).
 Oriental Bank Corporation, [341](#), [339](#),
 [467](#).
 Pares' Leicestershire Banking Company,
 [150](#).
 Provincial Bank of Ireland, [337](#).
 Royal Bank of Ireland, [756](#).
 Royal British Bank, [152](#), [518](#).
 Sheffield Banking Company, [148](#).
 Sheffield and Hallamshire Bank, [582](#).
 South Australian Banking Company,
 [458](#).
 Union Bank of Australia, [103](#), [521](#).
 Union Bank of London, [464](#).
 Warrington Savings Bank, [147](#).
 West of England and South Wales Dis-
 trict Bank, [264](#).

COMMUNICATIONS.

- Adhesive Stamps on Drafts and Orders,
 [594](#).
 Bank Act of 1844, The, [157](#), [404](#), [473](#).
 Bank Book-Keeping, &c., [216](#).
 Bank Holiday, [95](#), [160](#).
 Banks and Banking, Popular Delusions
 respecting, [89](#).
 Bank Notes and the New Stamp Act,
 [529](#).
 Banker, Special Juror, [656](#).
 Bankers' Acceptances, [217](#).
 Bankers' Cheques, [49](#).
 Bankers' Clerks' Salaries, [46](#), [94](#), [158](#),
 [215](#).
 Bankers' Drafts and the Penny Stamp,
 [92](#), [529](#), [595](#).
 Bankers, Who are? [91](#).
 Bill of Exchange, Receipt to, [161](#).
 Bills of Exchange, [274](#).
 Bills of Lading, Receipt Stamps to, [216](#).
 Cheque, Dated within Legal Distance
 and Issued beyond it, [277](#).
 Cheques Drawn beyond Proper Distance,
 [215](#).
 Cheques Drawn in the Isle of Man, [274](#).
 Cheques, Endorsement on, [594](#).
 Cheques endorsed, Payable to Order, [217](#).
 Cheques Payable to Order, [48](#).

Cheques Payable to Bearer, and endorsed to order, 275.
 Cheques, The words "Or Bearer," 760.
 Cheques, The 15 mile Circulation, 654, 760, 761.
 Country Bankers, Circulation of, 91.
 Currency Act of 1844, 276.
 Currency Doctrines, 271.
 Currency, The Laws of, 761.

Deposit in Two Names, 760.
 Deposit Receipt, 274, 277.
 Deposit Receipt, Lost, 162.
 Dishonour, Verbal Notice of, 527.
 Draft Refused Payment, Remedy on, 90.
 Draft Stamp-Letter to a Banker, 94.

Endorsement on Cheques, 594.

Guarantee for an Account Current, 529.
 Guarantee, Form of, 408.

Income Tax, The, 409.
 Irregular endorsement, 759.

Joint-Stock and Private Banks, Relative position of, 87, 160.

Letters of Credit, 86.
 London Agents, Drafts on, 275.

Memorandum on Receipt, 216.
 Michaelmas Rents on Corn Averages, 656.

Month, Meaning of the Term of, &c., 344, 408.

National Bank of Ireland, The, 402.

Penny Draft Stamps, 528.
 Presentment for Acceptance, 344.
 Probate of Wills, The Production of, 49.
 Promissory Notes, The Presentment of, 214.

Receipt for Bills, 760.
 Receipt for Deposit, Stamp, 92.
 Remittances, Letters Acknowledging, 90.

Stamp Act, the New, 592, 594, 654.
 Stamped Drafts, Circulation of, 528.

Usury Laws, The, 49, 473.

Who are Bankers? 91.

BANKING AND COMMERCIAL LAW.

Bankers' Deposit Receipts, The Law of 17.

Bills of Exchange, The Law of Lost, 262
 Bills of Exchange, &c., Proposed Amendment in the Law relating to, 261.

Joint-Stock Bank Shares, The Sale and Purchase of, 139.

Law and Life Insurance, as affecting Banking and Commercial Transactions, 328.

Legal Notes, 383, 455, 574.

Powers of Joint-Stock Banks to Borrow, 641.

Powers of Public Companies to Borrow Money, On the, &c., 571, 751.

Stamp Act, The New, 510, 643.
 Stamp Laws, Alteration in the Law of Evidence Regarding the, 203.

Usury Laws, The present State of the, 377.

Usury Laws, As they Affect Bankers, 453.

LEGAL MISCELLANY.

Bishop *v.* The Countess of Jersey, Coutts' Bank, 207.

Ex parte The Royal British Bank, 576.

Ex parte Walker and Others, The Royal Bank of Australia, 515.

Leming *v.* Ralston, 386.

Norman *v.* Mitchell, The Chartered Bank of India, Australia, and China, 647.

Orr and Others *v.* The Union Bank of Scotland, 387, 648.

Re Chambers & Son's Bankruptcy, 39.

Re Davidson & Gordon, 578.

Re J. Windle Cole, 578, 650.
Re Mackenzie, Cameron, and Boyle, 651.
Re Oppenheim, Pseudo Foreign Bills, 41.
Re The St. Marylebone Joint-Stock
 Banking Company, 209.
Re W. B. Anderson, Bill Forgeries, 263.

Rollin v. Steward, 334.

The Queen v. Garrett, 143.

Thompson v. Bell, The National Provin-
 cial Bank, 264.

NOTES OF THE MONTH.

Absconding Bankrupts, 531.
 Actuaries, Institute of, 532.
 American Failures, 106.
 Arrest of a Banker, 707, 763.
 Assay of Gold and Silver Ware, 476.
 Attempted Bank Robbery, 410.
 Australian Banking, 707.

Bad Debt, A, 346.
 Bank, A Curious Old, 106.
 Bank of Madras, The, 279.
 Bank Robbery at Chelmsford, 476.
 Banker's Estate, An Old, 162, 765.
 Bankruptcy System, The Extension of,
 411.
 Bills of Exchange Bill, 281.
 Building Societies, 218.
 Bullion, Exports of, 280, 532.

Chambers and Son's Bankruptcy, 530.
 Chambers, Mr. A. H., Death of, 51.
 Chartered Bank of India, Australia, and
 China, 708.
 Collman and Stolterfoht, Estate of
 Messrs., 597.
 Common Law Procedure, The New Bill
 on, 278.
 Customs Duties, 281.
 Customs and Excise Duties, The New,
 346.

Death of a Fundholder, 764.
 Decimal Currency, 531.
 Delay in Colonial and Foreign Lines,
 764.
 Dickson and Co., Failure of Messrs.,
 280.
 Dividend Warrants, Stamps on, 707.

Exchequer Bills and Exchequer Bonds,
 531.
 Exports of Bullion, 280.

Fidelity Guarantee Assurance, 410.

Fireproof Strong Rooms, 107.

Gemmell, Brothers, Dividend of Messrs.,
 163.
 Gold, Exports from Port Philip, 410.
 Gold Mining Companies, 708.
 Government Appointment, A, 531.

Income and Expenditure of the United
 Kingdom, 531.
 Indisputable Insurance Company, 409.
 Irish Savings Banks, Runs upon, 50.
 Jamaica Loan Bill, The, 532.
 James, Mr. P. M., Death of, 475.
 Johnson, Mr. J., Death of, 105.
 Joint and Separate Stock Accounts at
 the Bank, 411.
 Joint-Stock Companies, 280.

London and County Joint-Stock Bank,
 106.

Marylebone Banking Company, The, 163.
 Mercantile Failures, 280, 476.
 Mint, The Operations of the, 106.

New Indian Bank, 105.
 New South Wales, Bank of, 162.
 Newly Invented Spurious Coin, 278.
 North Western Bank of India, 107.

Perpetual Insurance, 530.
 Portuguese Gold Currency, 707.
 Promissory Notes under £5, 764.
 Provincial Insurance Company, The, 281.

Robbery from a Bank Clerk, 345.
 Russian Securities' Bill, The, 531.
 Russo-Dutch Loan, The Interest on,
 346.

Savings Banks, 279, 476, 763.
 Savings Banks for Seamen, 530.

- Scotch Banks, The, 597.
Share Speculation in Brazil, 475.
Snow, Mr. R., Death of, 532.
Sovereigns from Australia, Influx of, 476.
Specie, Exports of, 532.
Speculation in Erie, A, 595.
Spurious Coin, Newly Invented, 278.
Stamp Office, Days for Allowance at the,
708.
- St. Marylebone Savings Bank, 764.
Times Life Assurance, The, 410.
Thompson, Mr. Alderman, Death of, 219.
Uncle Sam's Strong Box, 595.
Usury Laws of New York, The, 708.
War with Russia, The, 218.
Winding up Companies, 345.
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THE BANKERS' MAGAZINE,

AND

Journal of the Money Market.

JANUARY, 1854.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH OF HENRY LUARD, ESQ.

IN our November number we gave a brief account of a very flattering testimonial, which was presented to Mr. Henry Luard, the general manager of the London and County Bank. So much interest seems to have been excited by that circumstance, and the friends of Mr. Luard are so numerous and enthusiastic, that it will, perhaps, be gratifying to them, and to the shareholders and customers of that large and prosperous establishment which he so ably conducts, to be presented with his portrait, and likewise with a brief outline of his commercial career.

Henry Luard is the fifth son of the late Peter John Luard, Esq., of Blyborough Hall, Lincolnshire, being the only one of eight sons not educated for a profession. His eldest brother inherited the Lincolnshire property, two brothers entered the church, one the medical profession, and three the army. Of the latter, Lieut.-Colonel Luard (formerly aid-de-camp to Lieut-General Sir Charles Dalbiac, K.C.H., and afterwards military secretary to the Commander-in-Chief in India), is already known to the public by his beautifully executed work, entitled *Views in India* — by his drawings of Indian scenery and architecture, from which the panorama of Hindostan was formed — and by his more recent publication, *A History of the Dress of the British Soldier*, a work of considerable research and military interest. Another brother, Major Luard (since deceased) served throughout the Peninsula war, and at the Battle of Waterloo, and was considered one of the best cavalry officers that ever drew a sword. His services were marked by the Duke

of Wellington's approbation, who promoted him to a troop in the 18th Hussars, from the 4th Dragoons, after the Battle of Vittoria.

The subject of our memoir was placed at a very early age with an eminent mercantile firm of large continental connections, where, his almost intuitive ability for figures soon demonstrating itself, he was raised when a mere youth to the responsible situation of ledger-keeper; to this early distinction may be traced the importance which, through life, Mr. Luard has attached to the rigid observance of correct book-keeping, and is a further illustration that

"Just as the twig is bent the tree's inclined,"

and that our early associations leave a lasting imprint on our maturer years.

For nearly ten years, Mr. Luard remained a close attendant on the counting-house, where he imbibed the advantages of a first-rate commercial education—moved in the best society, to to which his family connections and his musical attainments gave him the freest access—and had for his example the prestige of a firm of first-rate business qualifications and integrity; so that in after life, when he assumed the important function of managing a bank, he had little more to do than to bring into active operation, in a more extended sphere, those principles of regularity and integrity which had been engrafted by early habits, and matured by additional years of city experience, and general knowledge of the world.

In 1841, the directors of the London and County Bank had the misfortune to discover that £20,000 of bills had been improperly abstracted by a bill broker from his own case, and £20,000 scrip of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company substituted in their place. The scrip was claimed as the property of Messrs. Acraman and Co., of Bristol, whose failure occurring at the time, restitution was at once demanded by their assignees.* The moment was one that called for the exercise of the utmost energy and judgment on the part of the bank, the more especially as at this critical juncture Mr. Dighton, the manager, disappeared; and, as might have been expected, his disappearance gave rise to the most cruel aspersions against the directors, and it was even whispered that the bank was likely to wind up.

The directors took the most politic course to stop such ru-

* The well-known cause of *Acraman v. Cooper* sprung from this event. After three trials in the Court of Exchequer, with opposite verdicts, a compromise was agreed upon, by which the London and County Bank substantiated their right to the scrip upon payment of a sum of between £8,000 and £9,000. The property subsequently realised a large profit to the bank, displaying the fallacy of official judgment, which had not only predicted a loss, but injudiciously promulgated a premature opinion of its extent.

mours, by publicly advertising for a new manager, which was responded to by no less than sixty applicants for the situation. The choice, happily for the establishment, fell on Mr. Luard—the selection rested on public grounds alone, Mr. Luard being previously entirely unknown to the directors; indeed, he was at that period seeking, through a connection of high rank, an official assigneeship, for which responsible office he was recommended by, and received the most commanding testimonials from, many of the most eminent banking and commercial firms in the kingdom.

We find him, then, undertaking the responsibilities of management at a crisis as unpromising as can well be imagined; but it is precisely at such junctures that men of solid understanding and sound judgment show themselves. Mr. Luard, after giving the situation and prospects of the bank his mature deliberation, foresaw that a bank with increasing connections, having for its sphere of action the metropolitan circle of sixty-five miles, which admitted the public to a participation of its profits, and gave to every customer the facility of drawing cheques equally upon London or the country, without the necessity of keeping a double balance, must, with sufficient capital and good management, succeed. Conscious of his own powers, he faced the difficulties of his new position without apprehension, put his “hand to the plough,” and never looked back nor ceased his labours until those who had honoured him with their confidence had reaped a most abundant harvest.

It is said that at this time, and for a long succession of months, his labours extended to no less than seventy hours a week. Bent upon the successful accomplishment of his task, he devoted every energy of mind and body to construct a solid foundation, on which the future success of the bank might securely rest. The firm attitude with which he repelled every imputation upon either the safety or integrity of the bank had ample illustration during his early career, and some of the letters he wrote at that period are masterpieces in their way; as an illustration of their style, we insert one to a discontented and captious shareholder:—

“71, Lombard Street,
19th Nov., 1841.

SIR,—However flattering the preamble of your communication of the 18th instant may be, as a record of your estimation of my public character, I must express my surprise that you should have thought proper to inflict upon one to whom you give credit for right and conscientious feelings, a lengthened allusion to those calumnies which have been so industriously circulated against the London and County Bank. As the general manager of the company, I cannot condescend to notice the uncalled-for and ungentlemanlike observations that have escaped your pen, in reference to the directors of the company; but, on

the faith of your being a man of prudence and discretion, I do not hesitate to warn you against a credulity which would stamp with the semblance of truth the slanders to which you seem inclined to give currency—slanders so obviously dictated by the blackest spirit of malice, that no person possessing ordinary understanding and knowledge of the world could be imposed upon by them. Rely upon it, sir, that the soundness of the principles on which the London and County Bank is founded (and which you admit) will enable it to survive the attacks, however insidious, which it is in your power, or that of anybody else, to direct against it. Those principles are honestly carried out—the most legitimate rules of banking are enforced—the directors are fully impressed with their weighty responsibility—and the servants of the establishment are no less zealous than they are industrious. With such elements of success at our command, you will pardon my observing, that I think we can get on without the aid of either your advice, your strictures, or your co-operation.

I remain, sir, your obedient servant,

To ——— Esq.

HENRY LUARD."

We have perused the reports of the several general meetings of the company; the first mention of Mr. Luard's name is in that of February, 1842:—

"The directors congratulate the proprietors upon the appointment of Mr. Luard as manager of the company. His high and well-known character, his practical knowledge and experience, and his general courtesy, justify the directors in anticipating the greatest benefits from his connection with the company."

Every subsequent report appears to confirm this first expression of confidence, and terms of eulogium mark the recurrence of his name, year after year.

Very early after his appointment, he expressed himself thus confidently, at one of the public meetings of the company:—"I know from internal evidence that the bank is in a safe and sound state; and let us once be free from litigation, and there will arise, I am persuaded, such an expansion of business as will not only astonish the public, but equally astonish ourselves."

When Mr. Luard first commenced the management of the bank, the balances only amounted to £480,000—in little more than a twelvemonth he found them increased to £820,000; and an equally encouraging feature was exhibited in the suspension of public hostility, and the gradual diminution of private slander. The panic of 1847, which threatened to shake the foundation of every bank in the kingdom, served but to stamp the London and County Bank with increased stability and reputation. The failure of Messrs. Knapp's Bank at Abingdon occurred in October, 1847. It was desirable to occupy the ground, and this was done in the face of the panic, without a moment's hesitation, and in a spirit of liberality towards the wants of the neigh-

bourhood, which could not have been surpassed even in times of monetary ease.

Previously to joining the London and County Bank, Mr. Luard had held the appointments of Director of the London Life Association, and Deputy-Chairman of the Southampton Dock Company. The occupation of the former was not considered incompatible with his banking duties, and we understand he retains to this day his seat at the board of that important and well-conducted institution. On the occasion of his retirement from the Southampton Dock Company, there was a demonstration of feeling towards him so encouraging, that we cannot refrain from recording it:—

*“Southampton Dock Company,
17, Bishopsgate Within, 23rd Sept., 1841.*

Dear Sir,—I have the honour to transmit to you, inclosed, this court's unanimous resolution on receipt of your letter of the 17th inst., communicating what I trust I may be pardoned for designating as the painful intelligence of your resignation of the office of a director of this company.

I have the honour to be, dear sir,

Your obliged and most obedient servant,

(Signed) GEO. SAINTSBURY, *Secretary.*”

HENRY LUARD, *Esq., &c. &c. &c.*

*“Southampton Dock Company,
19, Bishopsgate Within, 23rd Sept., 1841.*

Extract from the Minutes of the Court of Directors.

‘Resolved,—That it is with unqualified regret that this court receives from its Deputy-Chairman, Henry Luard, Esq., the announcement of his retirement from the direction of this company.

The talent, united to business habits of the first order—the largeness of views, combined with the most acute comprehension of details, and the ripened judgment, equalled only by the unvarying urbanity which have characterised the whole of his connection with this undertaking, leave in the minds of those who have acted with him but one feeling of concern at the loss which the company must sustain by his retirement.

To the members of this court individually, the regret with which they lose so valued and esteemed a colleague is mitigated only by the hope that the new field of exertion on which he has entered will insure as substantial and permanent benefit to himself, as his talents and experience cannot fail to produce to it, or to any undertaking with which he may be connected.’

(Signed) J. LIGGINS, *Chairman.*”

The distinguishing achievement of Mr. Luard's management seems to have been the acquisition of an ascendancy by conciliation and gentlemanly bearing, which, under the guidance of good judgment, he has been enabled to exercise for the best interests of the bank. The extinction of animosity, the increase

of the capital, an improved system of book-keeping, the introduction of useful forms, the maintenance of a sufficient staff, with a more liberal allowance of salary, and placing the bank upon the respectable footing of other banks, by opening a drawing account at the Bank of England, and by subscribing to the Bankers' Association, were early features of that ascendancy; whilst the revision of the code of regulations for the government of the bank and its officers, the organisation of a guarantee and provident fund, under the enlightened and munificent auspices of John Sadleir, Esq. M.P. (*vide* February number), the present chairman of the company, and the extinguishment of the preliminary expenses, have more recently engaged his attention.

The regularity and strict discipline which constitute the framework of the rules and regulations for the guidance of the officers, derive additional interest from the higher motives of action with which they are enforced. Take, for example—

“Rule 19. It is expected of the officers of the establishment that, whilst rigidly upholding the rights of the bank, in respect of the charges established by regulation and practice, they scrupulously avoid taking advantage of any one, bearing in mind that the character of a bank can alone be sustained by the strictest honour and integrity.”

“Rule 20. In order to secure a general system of good order throughout the establishment by a faithful observance of these rules, it is indispensably required of the superior officers to promote this most desirable object by every means in their power; and especially by their own high integrity, firmness and gentleness of manner, diligence and punctuality, to set an example to all within the scope of their influence and authority. It will be their duty by advice, and if necessary by remonstrance, to check any appearance of irregularity or want of attention to the prescribed duties. In all cases of misconduct in any of the clerks under their immediate control and management, it is their bounden duty, however painful, at once to report the same without favour or partiality, to the general manager, to be by him represented to the directors of the company.”

An illustration of the judicious banking training which the youths of the London and County Bank receive, is exhibited by the numerous instances of their services being sought after by other establishments. On such occasions the general manager is not unfrequently consulted as a friend, and it is his invariable practice to encourage every removal, when a fair prospect of permanent advantage to the clerk presents itself—indeed, his watchfulness over those placed under his authority appears to partake as much of a parental as of a magisterial character; and it cannot be doubted that such consideration from a superior forms one of the elements of that bond of union which exists in so remarkable a degree between the employers and the employed throughout the establishment.

One of the most distinguishing features of Mr. Luard's character is the candour and gratitude with which he always acknowledges his infinite obligation to the directors and the talented and efficient staff by whom he is surrounded; and no success of management could have been a greater triumph than the acquisition of Mr. Sadleir, in August, 1848 (we believe entirely through his instrumentality)—a gentleman whose comprehensive views and knowledge of the principles of banking, together with his great parliamentary influence, pre-eminently qualified him as the very best man that could have been selected, after the panic had ceased, to develop the resources of an institution which, since he has become chairman, has so greatly extended in importance and prosperity.

Mr. Luard, like other men, may have his defects, but public opinion and private evidence alike testify that they are far more than counterbalanced by the qualifications which appear so peculiarly to fit him for his position—the more prominent of which are his matured judgment, his unassuming address, his gentlemanly manners, his untiring application, his powers of giving a negative without offence, and the moral courage with which he faced and overcame difficulties of no ordinary magnitude. Nor should we omit the physical advantage of an iron constitution, which has enabled him, through the long period of twelve years, to give his services continuously to the bank, with alone the intermission of two days from illness.

To conclude, if any doubt ever existed as to the successful results of Mr. Luard's management, we have only to recommend the perusal of the following extract from the published reports of the London and County Bank since September, 1841, when he became manager:—

	Balances. £	Capital. £	Rest. £	Dividend.
1841.—September ..	480,353 ..	80,900 ..	4,000 ..	5 per cent.
1842.—31st Dec. ..	819,952 ..	120,600 ..	5,484 ..	"
1843.—" ..	957,376 ..	121,685 ..	8,245 ..	"
1844.—" ..	1,165,329 ..	161,025 ..	10,172 ..	"
1845.—" ..	1,439,128 ..	200,000 ..	14,833 ..	"
1846.—" ..	1,526,704 ..	200,000 ..	20,357 ..	6 per cent.
1847.—" ..	{ panic year 1,160,567 }	200,000 ..	24,751 ..	"
1848.—" ..	1,293,994 ..	200,000 ..	26,390 ..	"
1849.—" ..	1,597,822 ..	200,000 ..	28,383 ..	"
1850.—" ..	1,920,660 ..	231,035 ..	35,193 ..	"
1851.—" ..	2,374,920 ..	276,925 ..	38,487 ..	{ 6 per cent. and bonus 1 per cent.
1852.—" ..	3,082,640 ..	360,670 ..	44,325 ..	{ 6 per cent. and bonus 2 per cent.
1853.—30th June ..	3,366,335 ..	379,725 ..	{ Addition to rest, and declaration of dividend, in Feb., 1854	

Such figures and facts speak for themselves—they need no comment: and whenever Mr. Luard shall retire into private life, *his* “rest” will be sweetened by the respect and regard of those he leaves behind, and a grateful proprietary will not forget, in their appreciation of his services, that *their* “rest” was, year after year, increased by the application of his labour, zeal, and ability.

Considering the foundation of the guarantee and provident funds of the London and County Bank as an epoch in the history of banking, we reprint the particulars, as they appeared in the *Bankers' Magazine* for February, 1853:—

“To the Editor of the *Bankers' Magazine*.

London and County Joint Stock Bank, 21, Lombard Street,
London, 9th January, 1853.

SIR,—I enclose two circulars addressed to the officers of this bank, the purport of which may probably interest some of your readers.

I should, however, explain that the guarantee and provident funds referred to had their origin in a munificent donation of £4,500, made by our chairman, John Sadleir, Esq., M.P., for the benefit of the officers of the bank. A portion of this sum (£3,000) has been set apart as the commencing capital of the guarantee fund, and provision has been made in the rules of this fund that the surplus (arising from the annual premiums, &c.) beyond that amount shall from time to time be paid to the ‘Provident Fund.’

We all feel deeply interested in the result of these two schemes; if successful, the officers of the bank will not only have been relieved, by the payment of a moderate annual premium, from the onerous necessity of finding private or other sureties, but will further have a constantly increasing fund, from which provision may be made for such painful cases as that of the late Mr. Pennyfeather, reported in your *Magazine*, or for superannuation allowances.

It is gratifying to see the directors of large establishments endeavouring to promote a better standard of service from those in their employ than that which results too generally from the merely literal fulfilment of the engagements with their officers.

I believe that both directors and shareholders will find their interest in a greater infusion of the moral element, in the treatment of their servants, who are able so materially to influence the *tone* and manner in which the business of public companies is conducted.

The liberal example set by our chairman has already been followed by a handsome donation from Mr. Luard, the general manager, and we are not without hopes that other gentlemen, and perhaps the shareholders, will, from time to time, make further additions to our ‘Provident Fund.’

The gratuity to the officers has been most fully appreciated, and their sense of the kindness of the directors has been conveyed in the accompanying letter of thanks.

I have the honour to be, sir, your most obedient servant,
WM. MCKEWAN, Chief Accountant.”

“21, Lombard-street,
17th January, 1853.

We, the undersigned officers of the London and County Banking Company, beg to acknowledge the receipt of the circulars of the 15th ultimo and

the 11th instant, addressed to us by the general manager of the company; the former announcing the introduction of a new system of guarantee, with an explanation of its details; the latter conveying the gratifying intelligence that the business of the bank had satisfactorily increased, and that the directors were pleased to mark their appreciation of the zeal and activity displayed throughout the establishment by awarding to each officer a gratuity of £10 per cent. on the amount of his salary.

On an occasion of such strong personal interest, we feel that it would be becoming in ourselves, and, we hope, acceptable to the directors, that we should record (however inadequately), the grateful sense we entertain of the gentlemanly feeling evinced towards us by these recent acts of the board. The changed system of guarantee has relieved many of us from private obligations which were painful; we hail its adoption as an immediate benefit, and we confidently anticipate that the annual premiums payable by us will, at no distant period, place the 'Guarantee Fund' in a position of such strength as to liberate the large sum held for its protection, and thus realise the generous wishes and intentions of the founder of the 'Provident Fund.'

Whether as a recognition of past services, or as a manifestation of kindly feeling, the gratuity is equally valuable and encouraging; and, whilst acting as a constant stimulus to our exertions, it will be long treasured in our memories as evidence of the generous consideration displayed towards us by the directors of the company."

"London and County Bank, 21, Lombard-street,
London, 11th January, 1853.

Sir,—I have great pleasure in transmitting to you the following resolution, which was this day passed unanimously, at a meeting of the board of directors.

'Resolved:—That, in consideration of the satisfactory increase in the business of the bank, and in appreciation of the zeal and integrity displayed throughout the establishment, each officer of one year's standing and upwards be presented with a gratuity of £10 per cent. on the amount of his salary; and each officer of less than one year's standing be presented with a gratuity of £10 per cent. on the aggregate amount of salary which he may have received from the bank during the past year.'

I am also desired to forward you a copy of the 'Rules and Regulations,' prepared for the guidance of every officer in the service of the company, to which the directors feel assured the most willing obedience will be paid.

I am, sir, your most obedient servant,
HENRY LUARD, General Manager."

"London and County Joint Stock Banking Company,
21, Lombard-street.

At a meeting of the board of directors of the London and County Joint Stock Banking Company, held at No. 21, Lombard-street, the 14th day of December, 1852, present John Sadleir, Esq., M.P., in the chair,

'Resolved:—That on and after the 31st instant, the present mode of taking security from the officers of the bank shall absolutely cease and determine, subject to such regulations as may be embodied in the constitution of the "Guarantee Fund."

'Resolved:—That the general manager do forthwith instruct the several officers of the company, as to the new mode to be adopted, by issuing to each officer rules based upon the resolutions of the board adopted this day, in relation to the "Guarantee Fund."'

By order,
(Signed) R. P. NICHOLS, Secretary."

RULES.

"I. Every officer, on his admission into the service of the bank, shall pay ten shillings per cent. on the amount of his guarantee; such amount to be assessed by the directors, and to be regulated, as far as practicable, by the responsibility of the situation to be filled; but under no circumstances is the amount to be assessed at a less sum than £500.

II. The payment of ten shillings per cent. shall continue for three years after the 31st December next ensuing the date of his admission; but the amount upon which it is so paid may vary from year to year, at the discretion of the directors, according to the position of each officer.

III. A reduction of five shillings per cent. upon the amount of the guarantee shall be made to every officer who has been in the service of the bank three *clear* years ending the 31st December, making such payment five shillings per cent.

IV. A further reduction of two shillings and sixpence per cent. upon the amount of the guarantee shall be made to every officer who has been in the service of the bank five *clear* years ending the 31st December, making such payment two shillings and sixpence per cent.

Memorandum:—

The officers of the establishment are exempted from the payment of income tax on their salaries by a board minute of the directors, of which the following is a copy:—

'Resolved:—That the income tax on officers' salaries be paid by the company.'

By order of the board, 28th July, 1842,

(Signed)

R. P. NICHOLS, Secretary."

APPENDIX.

"Scale of the amounts of guarantee assessed upon the officers of the London and County Bank, the same subject to alteration by the directors, as they may determine.

Managers, agents, and officers appointed to the charge of	
sub-branches, whose salaries are under £200 per annum	£2,000
Ditto ditto from £200 per annum and under	3,000
£300 per annum	4,000
Ditto ditto are £300 per annum and upwards	500
Other officers whose salaries are under £100 per annum	1,000
Ditto ditto from £100 and under £200 per annum	2,000
Ditto ditto from £200 and under £300 per annum	3,000
Ditto ditto from £300 and under £400 per annum	4,000
Ditto ditto from £400 to £500 per annum and upwards	

The annual premiums upon which (payable to the 'Guarantee Fund') are as follows:—

10s. per cent. from all officers not having been in the	
service of the company	3 <i>clear</i> years.
5s. ditto ditto	5 <i>clear</i> years.
2s. 6d. ditto	whose period of service exceeds 5 <i>clear</i> years.

Every officer in the establishment, whatever his department, to be subject to these rules."

(Circular)

"London and County Joint-Stock Bank,
21, Lombard-street, 15th December, 1852.

Sir,—In reference to the preceding rules, based upon the resolutions of the board, I am desired by the trustees of the 'Guarantee Fund' to require

from you, on the 31st December inst., the payment of £ being the amount of your subscription to the 'Guarantee Fund' for the year 1853.

The directors feel assured that the fidelity of the officers of the bank, hitherto so conspicuous, will continue to form a characteristic feature of the establishment, whereby the 'Guarantee Fund' will not be a mere self-supporting fund, but contribute annually to swell the 'Provident Fund,' endowed by John Sadleir, Esq., M.P., the chairman of the company, with the benevolent purpose of promoting their future benefit.

In making your subscription to the 'Guarantee Fund' *compulsory*, the directors feel equal confidence that a change of system, involving the emancipation of each officer from private obligation to friends or payments to guarantee societies, and embracing the principle of relief under circumstances of misfortune, sickness, or superannuation, will be cheerfully hailed as a boon throughout the establishment.

I remain, sir, your obedient servant,

HENRY LUARD, General Manager.

	Amount of Guarantee.	Annual Payment.	Amount to pay.
Period of service under 3 clear years	£	at 10s. per cent.	£
Period of service 3 clear years and under 5 clear years	£	at 5s. per cent.	£
Period of service 5 clear years and upwards	£	at 2s.6d. per cent.	£ ..

THE OLD AND THE NEW YEAR.

BEFORE the present number of this periodical shall have passed into the hands of our readers, the old year will have terminated, and the new year will have commenced its career. Satisfactory as the progress of the financial and mercantile community may appear during the period, it has been accompanied by several drawbacks; these, however, though important in their character, have not wholly diverted, if they have checked, the stream of prosperity which was apparent in the early part of 1853, and which, had it not been for the influence they have generally exercised in promoting vague fears and apprehensions, would have continued to this moment.

Looking dispassionately at the events of the last twelve months, it cannot be denied, that all classes have had to contend with various disturbing elements; but these elements have been produced by the transition through which capital and labour are now gradually passing—the consequences of the gold discoveries in Australia and California, and the altered relations which they are eventually destined to create. Political considerations, apart from those connected with the attitude of Russia towards Turkey, have, probably, not for a long time past, made so inconsiderable a figure in the ordinary course of affairs; the several measures of the Government, if not altogether successful, having been received with a tacit acknowledgment of their pro-

priety—the only determined opposition being in the case of the India bill, which, despite its thorough inadequacy to meet the requirements of the period, was permitted to be adopted as a kind of compromise between the ministry and the court of directors.

The great financial scheme of Mr. Gladstone, well-intentioned as it was, suffered defeat shortly after it was brought into operation. From the first it was foreseen that, however encouraging might have been the situation of the country for introducing measures practically allied with a conversion of the public debt, there were circumstances which indicated that an earlier attempt would probably have been attended with greater success. The sequel has proved the correctness of the observation. The autumn of 1852, when Mr. Disraeli was in power, was the opportunity that should have been seized for favourably realising this grand project—the general elasticity of the stock market at that date, the plethora of money, and the anticipations respecting a lengthened continuance of low rates of discount, having formed prominent features in the existing order of things.

The Derby Ministry going out on their budget, Mr. Gladstone took office as Chancellor of the Exchequer; and, desirous of retrieving the position lost by his predecessor, laid before the legislature measures for a commutation of the South Sea and other annuities—with what result, the public are already acquainted. Mr. Gladstone possibly was a little too sanguine in his notions of the readiness of fundholders to accept terms guaranteeing a *minimum* rate of $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., his avowed intention being to establish such a denomination of stock: but he forgot one important consideration, viz., that, unless compulsorily forced, the majority would rather risk the contingencies of other investments than immediately adopt the proposed alternative. He experienced good earnest of this conviction in the resolutions passed by the Court of South Sea Proprietors, declining altogether to assent to the conversion, the preference being given to a repayment in money.

The complication of foreign politics, together with the subsequent increase in the value of money, naturally caused more than common vigilance to be exercised, when such an alteration presented itself; but it now certainly seems questionable whether, if affairs had remained in much the same condition as they were from April to October, the extent of voluntary acceptances would have been as great as was expected. In any future attempts that may be contemplated for reviving a similar operation, it will be necessary to define, with more precision, the equivalents tendered, since on the explicitness of these depends a proper appreciation of the scheme. As a step in the right direc-

tion, the public agreed with the measure ; but its failure is to be attributed to its numerous details, and the inopportune time at which it was introduced. The budget, however, was much more satisfactory ; and, although hardly contested on some points, was finally triumphantly carried. Recognising, as it did, popular demands—the abolition of the soap duty, the progressive reduction of the import upon tea, being leading points recommending it to the middle and lower classes—the increase of the income-tax, at the modified rate of five pence in the pound, on receipts of £100 a-year, was not greatly objected to, although it was felt that the payment would press with some severity upon those brought within its limits. The re-arrangement of the customs tariff, and the alteration in the stamp laws, were likewise received as favourable measures ; and, in the whole of these, the Chancellor of the Exchequer may be considered to have achieved a decided success.

In other respects, the proceedings of Parliament did not exercise an important effect upon the general course of mercantile transactions. The debates, with regard to the Turkish question, dragged their slow length along until the close of the session ; when, notwithstanding the aggravated conduct of Russia, the yearning for peace allowed the Government to break up the great council of the nation, without defining their actual policy, or explaining publicly what precautions had been adopted to arrest the aggressive movement of the Emperor Nicholas.

The passage of the Pruth, and the consequent occupation of the Danubian principalities, should have aroused the jealous anxiety of Lord Clarendon and his colleagues, and not permitted them to rely upon the efforts of a Vienna Congress to produce a pacific adjustment of the difficulty. It was this first act of presumptive aggression on the part of the Czar, that has led to all succeeding embarrassments ; and, had a timely demonstration been made by England and France—a desire urged to the utmost by the latter Government—much of the annoyance that has followed would have been avoided. Without launching into the particulars of the several negotiations, the Nesselrode notes, the dispatch of the fleets to the Bosphorus, the rejection by Russia of the terms approved by Turkey, and the final outbreak of hostilities in Asia, Georgia, and Wallachia, the result has precipitated a crisis which threatens to involve a European war. Already we have largely experienced the depressing influence of this condition of things, and it remains to be seen whether we may not yet have to pass through even a severer ordeal.

The depression produced originally by the Turco-Russian dispute, was afterwards heightened through a reactionary feeling expressed in connexion with the expansion of our trade to Aus-

tralia. From January to July most active operations had been carried out—the employment of shipping, and the efflux of emigrants presenting a remarkable contrast to the previous apathy—till, at length, apprehensions were generally entertained that the colonies and their markets would be over-flooded. In the meanwhile, the money market becoming tighter, the Bank directors having made a gradual advance in their terms for public accommodation, a check was fortunately given to these adventures; scarcely, however, before advices of the fact of a heavy depreciation having taken place in prices at Port Phillip and New South Wales.

Concurrently with this adverse change in the general situation of mercantile relations, the fears entertained with regard to a deficiency in the harvest necessarily awakened attention. The crops in France, Germany and Italy were short, and these respective Governments not only enforced their customary prohibitions of exports, but also commenced large purchases to increase their own supplies; and, as these had taken place before the termination of our harvest, we were somewhat in a state of doubt relative to actual resources. The late improvement in prices, although facilitated by speculation, has since afforded strong evidence of a scarcity of the principal cereal products; and the season, so far as we have yet gone, does not promise much relief for the coming year. The enormous advance in provisions of all descriptions, particularly the prime necessities of life—the rise averaging from 30 to 35 per cent., and in some cases still more—has of course affected many departments of business; while the strikes in the manufacturing districts, although occurring at a period when a limit to production is in a measure desirable, must inevitably lead to distress and discomfort.

The mania for new companies, which distinguished the first five months of 1853, gradually subsided, from pure exhaustion—the caution of the public and the increased value of capital co-operating to repress an undue inflation before it reached a dangerous point. Multifarious as the projects were, embracing almost every species of enterprise, representing in the aggregate a considerable sum, the tendency in any single direction was not sufficiently extensive to entail large losses. The speculation having now ended, with little prospect of revival, the market remains inundated with a vast quantity of securities which are almost valueless, owing to the doubtful nature of the undertakings, and the irresponsible character of their promoters.

While we have been passing through this period, although our supplies of gold and specie have proved proportionately

great from Australia, America and the Spanish Main, the shipments to Melbourne, Sydney and the Continent, with those also made to India and China, since the outbreak of the revolution, have, in addition to the absorption of all imports, caused a drain upon the bank of £5,000,000—the stock of bullion on the 1st of January having been £20,527,662, whereas on the 17th of December it was £15,443,256.

The lowest amount returned was on the 22nd of October, when it had descended to £14,960,206—the reserve of notes having, in the preceding week, stood at the limited figure of £5,012,490. From the 6th of January, when the directors raised the rate of discount to $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., until the 29th of September, when they effected an advance to 5 per cent., the terms for accommodation have been steadily augmented, and up to the present moment the Bank's latest quotation is maintained with firmness.

Consols on the 1st of January were 100 $\frac{3}{4}$; in April they were at their highest point, which was 101; they then gradually declined, until panic seized the market in October, and the quotation fell to 90 $\frac{3}{4}$. From this price they eventually rallied to 96, and are now about (including dividend) 95 $\frac{1}{4}$. The extreme range in the value of railway shares has been considerable—in some instances from 15 to 20 per cent.—while, from the most depreciated quotations, the recovery has not exceeded 3 to 5 per cent.

Although, when the Bank directors raised the rate of discount to 5 per cent., more than ordinary pressure was experienced, not a single mercantile failure took place. This was considered to be sufficient proof of the general prosperity of trade, and of the caution exercised with respect to speculative operations in England, and the Colonies. Not so, however, was it with our Transatlantic neighbours: the disarrangement of the New York money market, which continued in full force from September to November, and has yet only partially abated, created considerable disturbances in credit. Suspensions of importance were received by each steamer; and, although principally connected with what are termed dealers in "fancy" securities, their general effect was extremely unfavourable, and caused for the moment alarm, lest their ramifications should extend to other and more substantial firms.

The result of banking business is on all hands admitted to have been extremely encouraging, and the shareholders are looking forward to handsome rates of distribution. The period of great prosperity enjoyed, it is to be expected, will enrich both the proprietors and officials; the claims of those who have worked hard in their vocation to ensure these profits deserving proper reward. Of all experience in banking pursuits, none has been more remarkable than that identified with the several Australian

establishments. Increased dividends have been declared, in addition to the appropriation of important amounts to meet ordinary contingencies; and the new institutions brought into operation have begun business with every appearance of succeeding.

Abroad, the foundation of banks on the joint-stock principle has enlisted some supporters, several having been organized in the continental cities; but of their progress little has as yet transpired. An endeavour has been made to set on foot a project for a Mexican national bank, but no hope can be entertained of its being satisfactorily conducted in an administration such as is likely to prevail during the rule of Santa Anna. At home, we have had no increase to existing establishments. The merits of two new London joint-stock banks were privately canvassed in July and August last, with apparently some prospect of support; and it is understood that the plans upon which they are proposed to be conducted are still available, whenever the preliminaries can be efficiently arranged.

At the latest moment we write, the commencement of the new year does not appear to be attended by propitious circumstances. War with Russia is predicted as almost a certainty. The temporary retirement of Lord Palmerston has created dissensions in the Cabinet; and the public mind is far from being tranquilised by the indefinite and unsatisfactory nature of the various floating rumours. The presence of the English and French fleets in the Baltic may, although tardily ordered, render the Emperor Nicholas sensible of the danger which his unwarranted conduct has provoked, and, after all, induce him to accept terms of compromise which shall secure the integrity of Turkey, and respect to the wishes of the Western powers. Should blind obstinacy, however, urge him to engage in this fresh contest, while feeling satisfied of what must be its actual issue, we abstain from attempting to estimate its political and financial consequences.

We wish we could, for the sake of all parties concerned, have concluded our task by indicating more favourable prospects for 1854. But it is impossible to shut our eyes to the steady perseverance of Russia in the one object of embroiling the East in hostilities, even though it be at the expense of the peace of Europe. The time, however, has now arrived when sluggish action should give place to concerted measures of resistance, not merely with the view of arresting aggression in this first stage of progress, but also of subsequently arranging the future position of that country in the scale of nations.

Banking and Commercial Law.

THE LAW OF BANKERS' DEPOSIT RECEIPTS.

It is intended, in this paper, to consider the subject under the following heads:—

- 1st. Of the form of the receipt, in order to be exempt from stamp duty.
- 2nd. Of the rights and liabilities of the parties, when the deposit is made by more than one person.
- 3rd. Of the right to money deposited by one person with a banker, in the name of another person, and with a verbal declaration of trust, for the benefit of a third person.

First. Of the form of the receipt, in order to be exempt from stamp duty.

Bankers' deposit receipts partake more of the nature of agreements or promissory notes than of receipts. They are expressly exempted from the receipt-stamp duty, and therefore it is presumed, rather than declared, that they are exempted from all duty, so long as they come within the terms of the exemption. It would, perhaps, have been more satisfactory if they had been exempted from the duty on agreements or promissory notes, or if they had been exempted from every duty in general terms. If deposit receipts are regarded as simple acknowledgments of a deposit, they are not liable to stamp duty as receipts, even if the exemption did not exist. This is apparent from referring to the stamp acts prior to the 16 & 17 Vict., c. 59. The words of the schedule of 55 Geo. III., c. 184, title "Receipt," are, "Receipt or discharge given for or upon the payment of money." And afterwards it is declared, "that any note, memorandum, or writing whatsoever, given to any person for or upon the payment of money, whereby any sum of money, debt, or demand, or any part of any debt or demand therein specified, and amounting to two pounds or upwards, shall be expressed or acknowledged to have been paid, settled, balanced, or otherwise discharged or satisfied, or which shall import or signify any such acknowledgment, and whether the same shall or shall not be signed with the name of any person, shall be deemed and taken to be a receipt for a sum of money, of equal amount with the sum, debt, or demand so expressed or acknowledged to have been paid, settled, balanced, or otherwise discharged or satisfied, within the intent," &c., and shall be charged with duty.

It is apprehended that none of these words apply to the transaction of a deposit or loan, either to a banker or to any other person. There is no "*discharge*" given for or upon the pay-

ment of money. There is no "paying," "settling," "balancing," "or otherwise discharging or satisfying" "any sum of money," "debt," or "demand." The transaction is a simple deposit on certain terms, and the document given is intended to state what those terms are. This document is not a receipt because it may commence with the word "received."

In the case of *Horn v. Redfearn* (1 Arnold 190), a document which closely resembles "a deposit receipt," was held to be properly stamped with an *agreement* stamp. It was worded as follows:—"I have received the sum of £20, which I borrowed of you, and I have to be accountable for the said sum with interest."

But if there had been no agreement to be accountable, or to pay interest, no stamp would have been required. Therefore, a document in the following form:—"Mr. T. has left in my hands £200," has been held to require no stamp.—*Tomkins v. Ashley*, 6 Barnewell and Cresswell, 542. Even the following document was held not to require a receipt stamp:—"Mr. Marks has this day left with me £10 on account of the debt, interest and costs in this action." The court remarked that although the money was "left" on account, it was not "received" or "accepted," and could have been returned. *Levy v. Alexander*, 19 Law Journal (Ex.) 113.

In these cases, the parties giving the receipts were not bankers, and could not therefore claim the benefit of the exemption in favour of bankers.

In *Clarke v. Chaplin*, 16 Law Journal (Ex.) 246, a receipt given by bankers, for a deposit paid on a letter of allotment in a joint-stock company, was held to fall within the exemption in favour of bankers' receipts, and therefore not to require a stamp.

By the 16 and 17 Vict., c. 59, passed since that case was decided, such a document requires the receipt stamp of one penny.

The 16 and 17 Vict., c. 59, now regulates the *amount* of duty, and extends the prior exemption in favour of bankers. It imposes a duty of one penny on receipts in the following terms:—"Receipt or discharge given for or upon the payment of money amounting to £2 or upwards, one penny." Exemption:—"Receipts given for money deposited in any bank, or in the hands of any banker to be accounted for, whether with interest or not, provided the same be not expressed to be received of or by the hands of any other than the person to whom the same is to be accounted for: Provided always, that this exemption shall not extend to receipts or acknowledgments for sums paid or deposited for or upon letters of allotment of shares,

or in respect of calls upon any scrip or shares of or in any joint-stock or other company, or proposed or intended company, which said last-mentioned receipts or acknowledgments, by whomsoever given, shall be liable to the duty by this act charged on receipts."

The Commissioners of Inland Revenue, in the explanation they have issued, make the following observations on the act:—"No alteration has been made in the duties on promissory notes, except that bankers' deposit notes or accountable receipts are not now chargeable with duty, notwithstanding they import that interest is to be paid. The exemption in favour of these notes is not affected by reason of their containing any stipulation that the money is not to be withdrawn for a specified period, or without notice."

It seems, therefore, now clear that a banker's unstamped deposit receipt may contain stipulations with regard to the terms of the deposit, as the rate of interest, and the notice or time when the money deposited is to be returned. But it must not be payable to order, or to bearer, or to any other person than the person from whom the deposit was received. If given for the deposit on allotments of shares in joint-stock companies, to the amount of £2 or upwards, the receipt must be on the penny stamp.

Secondly. Of the rights and liabilities of the parties when the deposit is made by more than one person.

Where money is deposited with bankers by several persons not partners, without any special agreement, the bankers are not justified in allowing one of such persons to withdraw the money.—*Shaw on Cheques*, 109. *Leyton v. Sneyd*, 2 Moore, 583. But it is apprehended that, if it was part of the agreement relating to the deposit, the money should be repayable to all jointly or to either separately, and the deposit receipt so expressed it, then the money could be paid according to the terms of the agreement.

Such agreements are not usual. When money is deposited by more than one person, the intention is to secure it from the control of an individual, and to place it under the protection of several. In case of the death of one of such persons, the question arises what is the power of the survivors, and can they give an effectual discharge for the money to the banker.

This question cannot be decided by analogy to the Government stocks, or to the law of joint tenancy in general. It seems to us to rest on special grounds.

Where money is invested in the funds in the joint names of two persons, the survivor is, at law, the absolute owner, whatever the intention of the investment may have been. This was lately discussed in the case of *Crossfield v. Such*, 22 Law Journal

(Ex.) 325, when the Court said:—"Inasmuch as Such and the deceased had the money standing in their joint names, we are of opinion that, in point of law, whatever trust there might be under the circumstances in favour of some other person, the right to the money was in Such as the survivor; and, although he may be responsible in a court of equity, as a trustee (if he was trustee), to make such a disposal of the property as would result from the trust with which he was clothed, we are of opinion the administrator could not maintain against him simply an action for money had and received."

The Bank of England is protected from being liable for trusts, but private and joint-stock bankers are not. It seems, therefore, that in order to discharge them the bankers should either have no notice of any trust, or should have the receipt of the legal and equitable owners. Notice of a trust need not be express.

If an inference arises, from the nature of the transaction, that the interest was to be several, the Court of Chancery will so treat it, although the words of the instrument may otherwise point to a joint interest; and in such a case the right of survivorship will be excluded.—*Morley v. Bird*, 3 Vesey, 628. Two persons lent money, and took a mortgage jointly, and one died; the survivor shall not have the whole, but the executors of the deceased shall have a moiety.—*Petty v. Styward*, Chancery Reports, 57. In the case of a mortgage to trustees, in order to guard against the presumption that the loan might be several, and to give full effect to the claim of the survivor, which is the most beneficial course in such transactions, it is usual to insert a clause that the moneys belong to the lenders on a joint account, and that the receipt of the survivor shall be a discharge.—See *Jarman's Conveyancing*; title, "Mortgage."

Thirdly. Of the right to money deposited by one person with a banker, in the name of another person, and with a verbal declaration of trust for the benefit of a third person.

A person (A B) deposited a sum of £40 in the hands of a banker, in the name of C D, but at the time the deposit was made, A B declared that he intended it for another person, E F, who was his reputed son. A B kept possession of the deposit receipt, and received the interest due on it during his life. After A B's death, C D drew the money out and kept it, and E F filed a claim in Chancery for a declaration that a trust had been created, by his reputed father, for his benefit.

Vice-Chancellor *Wood*, after referring to *Saunders v. Vantier* (10 L. J., ch. 354), and *Paterson v. Murphy* (22 L. J., ch. 882), said, that if the property would have borne the expense, he should have wished to have had some further evidence as to the creation of the trust by the parent. But the banker's clerk, a

witness not under any bias, deposed to a statement of the parent, which certainly amounted to a declaration of trust, and it was quite clear that the money did not belong to the uncle. It did not appear that the parent had any object or inducement to benefit the uncle, although he had to benefit the plaintiff. It was said in argument, that the statement of the parent, on depositing the money, that he intended it for the plaintiff, was too slight and slender to rely upon as evidence of a complete intention, and that it was consistent with an intention of the parent to retain the money within his own power; but when he had once placed the money out of his power and control, he must be taken *primâ facie* to have intended to part with the whole property in it, and, if a trust had been once declared, he could not recall it. It was suggested that the decision of the court in the present case must be the same which it would be in a case involving a sum of £20,000, but it must be observed that the absolute gift of £40 was more probable than one of a large amount; and, further, that transactions and arrangements affecting large sums were conducted with greater precaution than those in small matters.—*Petty v. Petty*, 22 L. J., ch. 1065.

There is a decision of Lord St. Leonards in the "Irish Equity Reports," vol. 8, p. 241 (*Cochrane v. O'Brien*), containing some important points on the right of bankers to relief from conflicting claims to money deposited with them. We have not space to refer more fully to this case at present, but shall do so on a future occasion.

TRADE OF THE UNITED KINGDOM.

THE Board of Trade returns for the month ending the 5th of November were issued on the 2nd of December, and are of the same remarkable character as those by which they have been preceded throughout the year. Compared with the corresponding month of 1852, they exhibit an increase in the declared value of our exportations of £1,312,360, and metals and haberdashery are again the two items in which the largest augmentation is observable. Every article, however, has participated in the movement in fair proportion, and the figures on the present occasion are perhaps even more satisfactory than heretofore, inasmuch as it is not likely, after the advices lately received, that they include any large shipments to Australia of a merely speculative character. At the same time, although in estimating the extended trade thus indicated, allowance must be made for a partial increase in the totals, caused by the rise in the prices of raw material, it appears, from the specification of the quantities of the various articles exported, that this has operated only to a limited extent. The following table presents the precise increase or decrease in the declared value of each description of goods shipped, as contrasted with November, 1852 :—

DECLARED VALUE OF EXPORTATIONS.

Month ending Nov. 5.	1852.	1853.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
Alkali—viz., soda	27,106	35,454	8,348	—
Beer and ale	35,724	69,590	33,866	—
Butter	30,425	33,375	2,950	—
Candles	7,311	11,492	4,181	—
Cheese	5,356	11,810	6,454	—
Coals and culm	101,079	124,758	23,679	—
Cordage and cables	10,988	16,973	5,985	—
Cotton manufactures	1,460,483	1,563,791	103,308	—
Cotton yarn	469,079	597,734	128,655	—
Earthenware	83,641	102,960	19,319	—
Fish	54,857	65,478	10,621	—
Glass manufactures	26,636	41,018	14,382	—
Haberdashery and millinery	122,471	259,700	137,229	—
Hardware and cutlery	204,879	298,478	93,599	—
Leather	64,247	121,563	57,316	—
Linen manufactures	290,831	353,761	62,930	—
Linen yarn	83,054	98,781	15,727	—
Machinery	152,281	193,270	40,989	—
Metals	727,366	1,058,216	330,850	—
Oil and seeds	29,342	43,000	13,658	—
Painters' colours, &c.	16,535	23,416	6,881	—
Salt	15,820	18,504	2,684	—
Silk manufactures	61,360	86,875	25,515	—
Silk, thrown	21,231	33,111	11,880	—
Silk twist and yarn	14,536	19,260	4,724	—
Soap	21,009	13,289	—	7,720
Stationery	26,347	60,040	33,693	—
Sugar, refined	23,262	23,080	—	182
Wool, sheep or lambs'	47,915	31,513	—	16,402
Woollen manufactures	495,091	620,387	125,296	—
Woollen yarn	125,404	137,349	11,945	—
Total	4,855,666	6,168,026		

The aggregate value of our exports during the first ten months of the year has been £73,155,755, against £59,247,104, in the like period of 1852, showing an increase of £13,908,651, or 23½ per cent., which has occurred in the following order:—

Month ending	Increase.
February 5	£1,410,060
March 5	919,097
April 5	1,486,818
May 5	2,309,995
June 5	1,187,558
July 5	1,003,637
August 5	1,405,918
September 5	1,426,500
October 10	1,446,708
November 5	1,312,360

As compared with the same period of 1851, there has been an increase of £15,029,699.

As regards the article of food imported and taken into consumption, there has been no particular alteration. Grain, tea, sugar, tobacco, spirits, and wine, have all been used in nearly the same quantities as at this time last year, but in coffee, fruits, and spices, there has been a decrease.

Subjoined are the quantities of provisions, &c., imported and taken for home consumption:—

Month ending Nov. 5.	Imported.		Home Consumption:	
	1852.	1853.	1852.	1853.
Grain, wheat, quarters ..	420,215	425,866	420,215	425,866
Grain of other descriptions, quarters	166,382	151,074	166,382	151,074
Indian corn, quarters ..	175,843	58,685	175,843	58,685
Flour and meal, cwt. ..	285,075	302,513	285,075	302,513
Provisions. — Bacon, pork, lard, &c., cwt. ..	15,400	22,321	Free.	Free.
Butter and cheese, cwt. ..	48,678	73,403	51,235	72,420
Animals, No.	37,558	44,429	Free.	Free:
Eggs, No.	5,681,096	7,944,548	5,682,586	7,833,848
Cocoa, lb.	265,615	868,789	211,836	321,195
Coffee, British, lb: ..	1,865,943	3,245,568	2,468,590	1,907,012
Ditto, foreign, lb... ..	2,567,393	2,221,302	771,776	628,203
Total coffee ..	4,433,336	5,466,870	3,240,366	2,535,215
Sugar—				
West India, cwt. ..	178,281	188,608	330,940	240,644
Mauritius, cwt. ..	17,084	50,200	67,505	71,206
East India, cwt. ..	56,977	96,977	145,227	86,214
Foreign, cwt. ..	59,987	143,020	42,159	152,954
Total sugar ..	312,329	478,805	585,831	551,018
Tea, lb.	1,826,565	2,936,578	4,376,785	4,303,590
Rice, cwt.	47,055	182,500	63,239	64,630
Spirits, gallons	560,782	907,502	402,678	405,632
Wines, gallons	415,170	1,025,609	565,829	575,693
Opium, lb... ..	13,807	27,793	6,162	3,891
Tobacco, lb.	5,258,476	5,765,210	2,236,111	2,200,761
Fruits.—Currants, figs, and raisins, cwt.	99,961	121,666	92,132	42,641
Lemons and oranges, chests.. ..	—	—	—	—
Spices, lb.	814,956	507,271	539,810	376,568
Ditto, cwt... ..	628	1,253	611	466

The following are the comparative imports and exports of raw

material, showing again an increase in every article, except raw silk :—

Month ending Nov. 5.	Imported.		Exported.	
	1852.	1853.	1852.	1853.
Flax, cwt.	70,858	210,669	—	—
Hemp, cwt.	38,817	192,017	—	—
Raw silk, lb.	400,009	313,630	38,590	21,489
Cotton, cwt.	201,332	283,043	47,185	62,574
Wool, lb.	7,284,574	10,725,143	1,680,328	1,111,138
Tallow, cwt.	92,163	228,474	—	—

Of silk manufactures the totals stand thus :—

Month ending Nov. 5.	Imported.		Home Consumption.	
	1852.	1853.	1852.	1853.
Silk, manufactures of Europe, lb.	37,963	46,566	36,596	43,663
Ditto, of India, pieces	23,529	28,731	23,702	6,568

SPECIE MOVEMENTS IN AMERICA.

THE recent tightness exhibited in the money markets of America gives more than ordinary interest to any statement which indicates the general financial position of the United States, and the movements of precious metals. Without entering at the present time upon a lengthened discussion of the many questions which are involved in the one now referred to, it is important to have a correct idea of the amount of the imports and exports of the precious metals during the past few years, and the result of the discovery of gold in California upon the supply of gold. Hitherto, the returns upon this subject have been far from accurate, and the subjoined statement therefore of the deposits of gold at the Mint of the United States and all its branches, from the date of the discoveries in California up to 30th July, 1853, is of special interest.

Deposits of California Gold at the Mints.

PHILADELPHIA MINT.				
1843	\$44,177	0	1852	\$49,821,400 0
1849	5,481,439	0	1853 (to July 30) ..	33,080,253 85
1850	31,667,505	0		
1851	46,980,367	0	Total	\$172,034,231 85

	BRANCH MINTS.				Total.
	Dahlonaga.	Charlotte.	New Orleans.		
1848	..	..	\$1,124 0 ..	\$1,124 0	0
1849	..	..	669,921 0 ..	669,921 0	0
1850	\$30,025 0	..	4,575,567 0 ..	4,605,592 0	0
1851	214,072 0 ..	\$15,111 0 ..	8,769,682 0 ..	8,998,865 0	0
1852	324,931 7 ..	28,361 76 ..	3,777,781 0 ..	4,131,076 83	
1853 (to July 30) ..	269,607 73 ..	15,399 49 ..	1,389,208 2 ..	1,674,215 29	
Totals....	\$838,635 85	58,872 25	19,183,286 2	20,080,794 12	
Add deposits at Philadelphia Mint	\$172,034,231 85				

Total California deposits to July 30, 1853 \$192,115,025 97

SUBSEQUENT DEPOSITS AT PHILADELPHIA MINT.

August, 1853	\$4,469,000 0
September, 1853	3,975,000 0
October, 1853	4,327,000 0

Total California deposits to October 31, 1853..... \$208,886,025 97

In connection with this return, it is important to know the amount of specie exported from the United States.

Official documents show that the entire exports and imports of specie from 1847 (the famine year), to 1853, were as follows:—

	Imports.	Exports.
1847.....	\$24,121,289	\$1,997,739
1848.....	6,360,224	45,841,620
1849.....	6,651,240	5,404,649
1850.....	4,628,792	7,522,994
1851.....	5,453,592	29,472,752
1852.....	5,503,544	42,674,135
Total	\$52,713,681	\$102,823,888
		52,718,961

Net exports of specie for six years \$50,105,207

And exports for first ten months of 1853, as ascertained from returns and estimates, say 25,000,000

Total exports of specie \$75,105,207

The actual exports of specie from the 1st January to the 19th November of the present year appear, from the New York Custom-house returns, to have been 23,313,137 dollars, and therefore the above estimate may be considered as sufficiently accurate for the present purpose. The result of the above table is therefore as follows:—

Receipts of California gold to October 31, 1853.....	\$204,886,025 97
Exports of specie from 1847 to October 31, 1853	75,105,207 00

Net increase of specie..... \$128,780,818 97

It would therefore appear, from these returns, that there are no v in specie

nearly one hundred and thirty millions of dollars more in the United States than there was in 1846. Notwithstanding this large increase in its financial resources, it must be remembered that the money markets of the Union were lately in a most embarrassed state, and sufficient is known of the reckless character of the managers of some American banks to render it necessary for parties connected with the United States to act with prudence in times of difficulty. Independently of the enormous speculation which has been carried on in stocks and shares of every description, during both the present and past year, and with which many of the banking institutions of America are much too intimately connected, there is ample scope for caution and apprehension for the future, in the fact which has lately been brought to light of extensive defalcations having been discovered in many of the banks of the city of New York. From the information which has been received on such subject, it is to be feared that the misappropriation of funds in such institutions is more extensive than appears from the instances publicly mentioned. The *New York Herald*, of the 26th ult., contains the following remarks upon the subject:—

“Those intimately acquainted with the *modus operandi* of financial and commercial affairs, know that defalcations can be and have been carried on for years, without parties most directly interested having any knowledge of the fact. Forgeries of an extensive character have been carried on for months, and the discovery at last made by the merest accident. In commercial firms, among partners engaged in mercantile business, we have frequently recorded the grossest swindling operations practised by one member, which for a long time were unknown to the others. Individuals have maintained a high credit for years after they have been hopelessly insolvent. There are at this moment, in this city, hundreds of mercantile houses, the members of which do not know whether their affairs are sound and solvent, or whether they are bankrupt; and there are many others who believe themselves wealthy, but who, in fact, could not wind up their business and pay 50c. on the dollar of their indebtedness. All engaged in financial and commercial pursuits know that dangers beset them on every side, and that it is impossible to tell when something may not occur to destroy the best laid plans and drain away the product of a long period of industry. It appears to be a principle pretty generally acted upon, to keep what you have got, and get what you can, and to amass wealth, honestly if you can, but at all events make a fortune, with the idea that the end sanctifies the means. The banks practice upon this principle extensively. The rapid increase of these concerns in this city, in the face of a rapid accumulation of private capital in the hands of private bankers, has created a rivalry and competition, which compels them to resort to operations attended with great danger. Instead of discounting the best business paper in the market, they loan upon all sorts of fancy stocks, and their best customers now are the brokers and speculators of Wall-street, instead of the heaviest and wealthiest commercial houses of the city. It is this change in the system of doing business, in connection with the necessity of paying large dividends on enormous capitals, which has led to the defalcations alluded to a few days since. There are now in this city fifty-five banks, with an aggregate capital of \$46,373,342. Five years since there were less than half that number, with half the capital. The amount of regular, safe, legitimate business offering, is not enough to sustain all these institutions, and the contest for the custom of stock speculators has therefore been very great. Those who have got the most of it have made rather slim profits so far, and the prospects are by no means very

flattering. If the uncertified, worthless stocks in hand were put down to the amount of profit and loss, there would be left, in some of these banks, a mighty small balance for the next semi-annual dividend."

With regard to the character of the business transacted by these institutions, it is too evident that it is connected with the wholesale speculation which has been in operation for so long a period, and by which an immense mass of virtually worthless paper has been thrown upon the market. The result of former years of similar speculation would alone be sufficient to convince an impartial person that the present period of prosperity has brought into circulation quantities of securities, which, although now, or lately, quoted at high prices, would be quite marketless in case of a panic. Although the American public generally have been induced to invest in such stocks, we incline to the belief that in general the mercantile classes are comparatively free from a participation in this description of investments. The journal from whence we have taken the preceding review of the state of the New York banks contains the following observations on the latter part of this subject. It observes:—

"The banks have supplied bull speculators pretty freely with funds on the hypothecation of the worthless stuff purchased, and the regular street buyers have filled themselves up with all the leading fancies on the market, and now there is no outlet. Even the officers of half a dozen banks we could name, located in Wall-street, between Broad and Nassau-streets on the west and Hanover-street on the east, are as full as they can hold of fancy stocks. The individuals we allude to are constant operators in stocks, sometimes for a rise and sometimes for a fall. All this is well known in the street. We are stating nothing new; and yet any one of these men would indignantly repudiate anything of the kind, if publicly accused of it. It is from such causes that the stock market from time to time is inflated or depressed. The banks are of more service to fancy stock speculators than to any other class.

The banks of this city have contracted their regular line of discounts, within the past three months, upwards of fifteen millions of dollars, all of which has been drawn from the mercantile classes, notwithstanding which very few failures have occurred. This shows that the merchants have other resources, and it is fortunate they have. The importance of our banking institutions to business men is daily becoming less, and the time is not far distant when they will be nothing more or less than so many stock-jobbing concerns. That they are so now, to a great extent, is well known in financial circles, and no harm will be done to the commercial community by exclusively devoting their capitals to the movement of fancy stocks. The loans made to brokers, on call, by hypothecation of the fancies, do not appear in the bank reports of discounts. They are called cash items, and are so reported in the official returns.

It is estimated in Wall-street that the losses on fancy stocks, within the past three months, have not been less than three millions of dollars."

THE STAMP ACT.

(From The Times City Article.)

ATTENTION has been called to a point in the official exposition of the stamp law, recently issued by the Commissioners of Inland Revenue, which seems to require the serious consideration of the mercantile interest. The Stamp Act of 1815 exempts letters by the general post acknowledging the safe arrival of bills of exchange, promissory notes, or other securities for money, from duty. This law is not altered by the recent act; but, in the exposition now issued, the commissioners, in substance, state that the act only allows the safe arrival of securities to be acknowledged as a fact. That if the letter goes on to say the amount has been placed to account, it becomes liable to duty as a receipt, while, if it states that the amount of a credit advised has been paid, it is liable to stamp duty. In practice, letters, acknowledging remittances, have always stated the appropriation of those remittances, and no such letters have ever been stamped. Now, however, according to the law laid down by the commissioners, if a foreign merchant in London receives from his correspondent on the continent, or in America, a remittance of bills against a shipment of goods, he may acknowledge the receipt of the bills; but, if he goes on to say that he has placed the amount of the bills to his correspondent's credit, his letter requires a stamp. So, likewise, if he acknowledges the advice of a credit on a banker, no stamp is due; but if he goes on to say that the credit has been honoured and the money paid, this subjects the letter to duty as a receipt. It will therefore be seen that, if this be law, a large body of foreign merchants must at once write their letters on receipt stamps; and, also, that much of the correspondence of manufacturers, who acknowledge remittances, must be on a similar form. Another consideration is, that perhaps one stamp may not be sufficient to cover the acknowledgment of several different sums on several different accounts, and, if so, many letters will require to be stamped several times. The case is not one where anything is optional to the parties. The commissioners insist that every such letter is a receipt, and, therefore, if written without stamp, it will subject the writer to a penalty; and, further, it can never be read as evidence in a court of justice. At the same time, it is to be remarked that, as this interpretation is based on the old law, it follows that all such correspondence, before the passing of the last act, should have been written on *ad valorem* stamps. Of the practical inconvenience of such a law, all persons can judge; and, if it be as declared in the Stamp-office pamphlet, no time should be lost in altering it.

[The commissioners' law is good if the remittances are applied in discharge of a debt, or if placed to the credit of some other party than the remitter; but, otherwise, we think no stamp duty is incurred. We agree most cordially with *The Times*, that the law requires alteration.]

NORTH-WESTERN BANK OF INDIA.

In the November number of the *Bankers' Magazine*, we published at length the report of the half-yearly meeting of the North-Western Bank of India, held in Calcutta, on the 2nd August last, which contained serious allegations against their late London agent; and, being desirous that the public should be in possession of both sides of the question, we now lay before them the temperate address of that gentleman to the shareholders of the company, in refutation of the charges made against him. Without fully entering upon the merits of the several points at issue between the two parties, and which now form the subject of a suit at law, we may be permitted to express concurrence in many portions of the agent's letter, confirmed as it is by the extracts and correspondence to which he refers, as well as by the report of the London committee, which our limited space compels us to omit.

It is to be regretted that positive injury is frequently inflicted on shareholders in joint-stock companies, by the indiscreet publication of what may be considered purely personal disputes; and we are inclined to think that the shareholders in this company would have had their interests better cared for, if arbitration had been adopted in the first instance.

The questions involved between the bank and their agent may be simply stated in pounds, shillings, and pence—each party, of course, forming their own opinion of their respective rights; and it is extremely doubtful whether acrimony or ill-feeling can, in the slightest degree, alter their relative positions—and hence the necessity of a settlement being effected, without the introduction of observations that can produce no good result. The two statements are now before the world; and, pending the decision of the court, we leave the public to draw their own conclusions.

To the Trustees and Shareholders of the North-Western Bank of India.

Gentlemen,—On the 2nd of August last a meeting took place at Calcutta, consisting, as I am informed, of about half-a-dozen shareholders, representing a very insignificant portion of your capital; when a report signed by the manager, and certain documents therein mentioned, appear to have been read, and this report has since found its way into the Calcutta papers, and has been industriously circulated by Mr. Tandy, or his friends, in this country.

Long previous to this meeting, a bill had been filed in the Court of Chancery, in this country, at the sole instance, as I believe, of Mr. Tandy, which was based upon the several charges which are mentioned in the above report, although at the time Mr. Tandy had my offer, as follows, to him, of arbitration:—"As I have no desire to shrink from the recognition of whatever may be chargeable against me, provided a similar principle be recognised by you on behalf of the bank, and as neither of us can take other than interested views of our own claims, I shall be prepared to submit my claims on the bank, together with yours on me, to the arbitration of two independent and disinterested parties, mutually chosen, by whose decision we should be bound, and each party supplying security for such sum as the arbitrators may consider necessary."

To this bill I had put in a very full, and, as I believe, a very conclusive answer, to which the legal adviser of Mr. Tandy had made no exception; and the suit is still pending, and it has been no fault or wish of mine that it has not hitherto been brought to a hearing.

In this state of things, any man would have supposed that respect for the high tribunal to which Mr. Tandy has thought fit to appeal would have restrained him from entering into *ex parte* statements and libellous observations. I did not, indeed, expect that respect towards me would influence him, because I know how embittered he is against me. But, I repeat, that it might have been expected that he would at least have paused until the matters had been fully investigated in the Court of Chancery; and the result of those proceedings would at once have decided whether there was or was not any sufficient ground for the opprobrious imputations

which he has thought fit, on all recent occasions, to throw upon me and upon the London committee.

I am not disposed to follow so bad an example. I court publicity and inquiry into every concern in which I have been engaged in connection with the bank. But such inquiry should be conducted, and such publicity should be attained, in a fair and legitimate manner; and that which especially ought to have been avoided, by a man who has assumed the high and responsible character of manager of your bank, should be, having recourse to anything like garbled statements or unsupported insinuations.

The attacks of Mr. Tandy have not been confined to myself. They have been levelled at the committee with whom I have acted; and the members of that committee have favoured me by a perusal of a statement, under date the 3rd instant, wherein, by documentary evidence (and that, in many cases, from Mr. Tandy's own pen), he stands convicted of most grossly perverting facts, and of garbling documents, in order to give them a colour which may appear to justify the ungentlemanly insinuations which he so liberally casts upon the committee and myself.

The committee have not felt that they had occasion for the same delicacy which restrains me from entering upon matters which are shortly to be under the consideration of a high court of justice; and they have therefore gone into explanations, which cannot fail to satisfy the public in India that Mr. Tandy's insinuations are as groundless as they are malevolent; and I confidently await the result of the equity proceedings, which will complete the exposure of Mr. Tandy in his true legal character.

But, in the meantime, I cannot remain altogether quiet.

I consider it not inconsistent with the position which respect for the tribunals of this country leads me to take, that I should lay before the public some of the important documents to which Mr. Tandy refers, and also some of his letters; and these are set forth in an appendix to this letter. These documents will be sufficient to show, when compared with the garbled extracts, which are inserted in his report of February and August, the way in which Mr. Tandy has studiously misled the public; and the letters will show, when compared with important extracts of the same report, the utter untruths of the statements in that report and the conclusions ought to be arrived at.

These are matters personal to Mr. Tandy, and which do not, therefore, involve any consideration of the matters contained in the Chancery suit; and if any shareholder has any desire to know what explanations I have given of those matters, I can refer him to the printed copy of my answer on oath, to which I have thought it right to give circulation, as the most decorous way of removing any temporary impression which may have been caused by Mr. Tandy's report. Other matters, equally personal to Mr. Tandy, and calculated materially to shake your confidence in his assertions and his management of your affairs, I, for the present, spare him and you the infliction of; but I cannot resist the opportunity which is now afforded me of bringing before you a brief retrospect of all that I have done for the bank from the period of my connection with it, and which is appended to this letter, from a conviction that it has suited the views and interests of Mr. Tandy and his predecessor Major Angelo to mislead such of your body as are personally unacquainted with me. These must satisfy you, so far as Major Angelo was concerned, that but for my advice, assistance, and services in 1845, 1846, and 1847, your bank must have been irretrievably ruined; and, in the language of your own shareholders and committee here, "have had to suspend payment in London more than once," but for my "personal funds" and assistance, in 1849 and 1850; and, in the special resolution of your shareholders, at a meeting of which Brigadier Tulloch was president, it was "resolved that great credit was due to myself and committee for our united, consistent, and independent perseverance in the exposure and animadversion on mis-statements received from Meerut."

To this independent exposure you are indebted for the discoveries made by you in 1850; and, although Mr. Tandy has effectually barred this wholesome check on his own acts by his dissolution of your committee, the extracts supplied from his own letters, and facts which can readily be afforded you by your fellow shareholders here, must satisfy you that he who denounces or dreads check or control must stand most in need of it, and that you are not deprived of it without a motive. At

the meeting which records the above resolution on the 7th January, 1851, the following is likewise recorded:—"Mr. Campbell intimated that it would not suit him to continue his services in an institution where such gross neglect and deception by the secretary could be allowed and countenanced by the directors, in the face of his and his committee's repeated protests for eighteen months. Mr. Campbell was earnestly requested to defer his resignation for the present, which he only consented to do out of consideration for his friends in the bank." The extracts supplied in the appendix will prove that, consequent on Mr. Tandy's earnest entreaties, received subsequently to this, and up to nearly the hour of supercession, I reluctantly and imprudently, as results have proved, consented to continue your agent.

I have studiously, for the reasons stated, abstained in this letter from alluding to matters now before a competent tribunal to decide; but it may be some index to you of Mr. Tandy's case, when you know that the respectable parties in whose hands it originally stood had no confidence in it, and could not recommend proceedings, although a Calcutta solicitor, on a visit to this country, has been found willing to take it up. But, throwing aside legal considerations, and appealing to your common sense views of banking usage, you may reasonably ask Mr. Tandy, whether he would or could pay to you, in the event of loss, the lacs of secured or unsecured bills he has always asfount, purchased by himself or your other agent; or if he would make good to you, although he never engaged to do so, the defalcations of his clerks or agents when they committed robbery; or, if you will ask the usage or experience of any other establishment in like cases, you may arrive, by anticipation, at the probable result of his celebrated equity suit against me. But I put it to you individually, as gentlemen, as well as shareholders in a bank, whether you consider it consistent with your sense of justice to be indebted to any one? My appendix proves that you are indebted to me, and your mode of adjustment, as shareholders of North-Western Bank, is to allow Mr. Tandy to instituted legal proceedings against me for supposed claims, when, after the gross act of injustice which you allowed him to commit in 1851, an honourable arbitration was offered you.

No one can regret more than myself the occasion of my having to trouble you or the public with these details; but, you must admit, there is a point up to which forbearance is commendable, but, beyond which, it is reprehensible.

Should you have any reply to make to this communication, I shall feel obliged by your addressing it to me direct, as I have no confidence in the record taken or published by your manager, of your sentiments on any question; and, that you may have no apprehension as to the use to be made of any such replies, I have pleasure in at once assuring you, that they will be received by me, and used by me, in no way to prejudice the existing suit of Mr. Tandy.

I am, gentlemen, your obedient servant,

86, Westbourne Terrace, Hyde Park,

R. J. R. CAMPBELL.

London, November 30th, 1853.

APPENDIX.

No. I.

Retrospect of Mr. Campbell's connection with the North-Western Bank of India.

During 1845 I was written to by several friends and constituents, largely interested as shareholders in the bank, soliciting my advice and assistance in the formation of a branch of the bank in Calcutta, and also requesting my opinion on the general business done by the bank; my attention was drawn to the fact, that a large portion of its capital was invested in service loans in dangerous competition with similar institutions then being brought into existence, by reason of the success which had attended the Agra Bank, and that the bill remittances of the bank were almost exclusively made in the bills of Messrs. Cockerill and Co., under contract. My presence at Meerut was solicited, and I repaired there. I pointed out to the secretary that, however advantageous service loans may have been to the Agra Bank, when it exclusively made them, and, consequently, had the means and neces-

sities of all bank borrowers before it, that that security, with the business spread over five or six institutions, no longer existed, particularly when it appeared to be part of the system, that, from jealous rivalry, no information was exchanged with either of those banks. I further observed, that sums, much in advance of the means of borrowers, had been given, and I pointed out the demoralising effect which this was likely to have, particularly on the junior branches of the services, and on general principles maintained, that it was not sound banking business to have the majority of its assets locked up in inconvertible long loans, disqualifying it from taking advantage of favourable opportunities for investment, and placing it, on the contrary, in periods of pressure, at the mercy of circumstances calculated to impair its credit or standing; and this you saw practically illustrated in 1846 and 1847, when, on the deposit of Company's paper, you were paying to the Bank of Bengal, 9, 10, and even 11 per cent., whereas your loans of 1845, on imperfect security, were only yielding you 8 and 9 per cent. interest.

And, as regards your remittances, I pointed out the imprudence of making them on mere credit bills, and from one house—my firm for nearly twelve months purchased all your bills without the loss of a farthing to the bank—and I recommended that, in opening your establishment in Calcutta, the preference should always be given to document bills, when such could be had, against staple commodities. I remarked on the necessity of creating a reserve fund, which appeared to have been entirely lost sight of, in the race of competition to make as good dividends as the Agra; and I stated that, regardless entirely of these dividends, or those of other establishments, no dividend should be made without reference to the formation of a reserve fund, until it had reached 25 per cent. of your paid-up capital. I pointed out, amongst other fruitful sources for this creation, the opportunity which periodical increase of capital afforded; and I said that I should neither be a party to the establishment of a branch in Calcutta, nor the sale of shares to myself or friends, unless the premium so derived, or a considerable portion of it, went direct towards the formation of this fund; with considerable difficulty, I succeeded in obtaining the recognition of this principle, and returned to Calcutta, where I opened the branch, and succeeded in placing several lacs of your stock amongst my friends and myself. My firm gave you portion of their premises, which cost them 300rs. a month, for 50rs., and there you remained up to the period of my leaving India. I devoted, in 1845, 1846 and 1847, a considerable portion of my time in looking after your executive, for which, up to this hour, I have not received a fraction of remuneration; and the operations of the branch resulted in considerable profit to the parent establishment, as the recorded half-yearly reports in every case during that period bear ample testimony to.

Towards the close of 1846, having a distrust of commercial affairs generally, and the position of the Union Bank in particular, I strenuously urged on your secretary the realisation of all Union Bank stock, on which he may have made advances; and I effected sales of nearly a lac of rupees at a premium, although I estimated to your secretary their then remaining assets at 50 per cent. of their paid-up capital. But for this sale, the bank would not only have lost this sum, but be further liable as shareholders to contribution, which might have been very considerable. The extracts from letters of this period, and during 1847, will show the caution which I urged on your secretary in all matters; so much so, that on the 9th of June I wrote your secretary, assuring him that I considered the Union Bank, and all the houses concerned in its direction, to be in the greatest difficulties; and that if their London bankers did not afford them increased facilities and accommodation, instead of curtailing these already existing, they, and the houses supported by them, must all stop together; and as no document bills for remittances could be had except against perishable commodities, such as rice with exorbitant freight, I urged upon your secretary the greatest caution, and to confine his remittances to Government transfer stock, if possible (which, to a considerable extent, I remitted myself), until the clouds which darkened our commercial horizon had dispersed. Previously to this, from the difficulty which arose in procuring good document bills, I succeeded in closing a contract with Messrs. Hickey, Bailey and Co., for bills; these they desired me to take on their London correspondents without security, as the Union Bank and others did at the time. I referred to London before I closed the contract, and bankers' opinion would have warranted their being taken without security;

knowing, however, that they possessed some of the best factories in India, my reply to them was, that although I quite concurred in the bankers' opinion as to their correspondent's respectability, I must have a mortgage of their factories, and their production, as collateral security for possible shortcomings on the bills or their general account. The contract was made when exchange was at 2s. 2d., and you had all the gain afterwards of receiving bills at 2s. 2d., when you were selling your bills at 1s. 11d. to 2s., and the second year you had 2 per cent. additional on market rates, and their remittances to their correspondents had to be made in your bills, at current rates. On the mere exchange merits of this contract you realised at least £9,000, and in making good other deficiencies at least £11,000, and you have been paid in full, with extreme interest, so that by that contract you are £20,000 better off than if you had in 1846 and 1847 bought to the same extent the most undoubted bills. But what bills were undoubted at that period? Reid, Irving, and Barclay Brothers, were considered so, but if you had them instead of the £30,000 which you held of H. Bailey and Co., in November, 1847, it would have been an entire loss, and your previous gains would have been the same. I am thus detailed in this matter, as, after the crisis, considerable blame was attached to me for taking the mortgages, although, if the mere credits had been taken, and entire loss had ensued, not a word might have been said. I am also anxious that you should have an opportunity of contrasting my unpaid services for you, and their results, with the widely different results to the unpaid creditors of those gentlemen in Calcutta, amongst whom may be classed some of the leading merchants of the time, acting for themselves, where it might be supposed they would take greater caution than had they been, like me, the unpaid servant of a bank.

So far back as the 2nd of March, 1847, in advising caution to your secretary in bill purchases, I remarked, the "crisis was averted last year, but it is inevitable this."

In August, 1847, preparatory to my departure for this country, I was requested to visit the head office at Meerut; while there, I endeavoured to place in course of early realisation, some large, irregular, and unsafe loans, such as the Mussori Club, and some 50,000 rs., due by one individual, and to reduce into more method and form all existing loans. From Meerut I was requested to visit Mussori, and I effectually checked there the continued discount of the paper of gamblers. Preparatory to my return from Meerut I addressed your secretary on the 28th August, claiming the commissions to which I was entitled for work done for the bank, and also for my Dāk expenses to and from Meerut; these were recognised by your secretary, but I was assured that money at the moment could be no great object to me, and as my being then paid would seriously interfere with next dividends, it was hoped I would defer my claim till the bank was better able to discharge the same; this I consented to do, and returned to Calcutta in September; on arrival there, I found matters with the Union Bank progressing even more rapidly than I had anticipated towards the disastrous break-up which so soon followed. I visited some of the leading dealers in Union Bank post bills, and found that there was a much larger amount of them afloat than I could have supposed possible, and that in my absence the bank had become interested in more than I considered prudent. I sent for the bank's broker, and insisted on these post bills being collaterally secured by indigo bonds. Finding considerable difficulty in moving either him or the bank, and knowing that I could not accomplish my object of security without further advances, I offered to advance 20,000 rs. for every lac of post bills he so collaterally secured, similar security being required by me for such fresh advance; and, on your behalf and that of the Cawnpore Bank, I advanced several lacs of post bills at par as cash, on a mortgage of the entire property of the Bengal coal company, which advance has been realised with 12 per cent. interest.

The advantages to you and to them of these arrangements, it is not for me to dwell upon; but business men in Calcutta, acting for themselves, can tell you that, as your unpaid servant, I did more for you than they were able to do for themselves. Whilst thus busily engaged in Calcutta, consolidating and securing your position against the impending crisis, I was not unmindful of what might be occurring at Meerut; and, knowing that a partner of Cockerill and Co.'s firm was in the vicinity, I wrote on the 20th October, to your secretary, these emphatic words, "Don't buy bills from L—— at any price." This letter arrived a few

hours too late ; but if, instead of handing bills over to him, the firm in Calcutta had been referred to us for payment, the loss might have been saved—my repeated warnings from 1845 up to that hour, would appear, in this transaction, to have been lost on your secretary. I next received an order for the purchase of Union Bank stock for several lacs of rupees at 500 rupees per share. This I prevented your agent from carrying out, and you were saved something very considerable thereby. Understanding that your secretary had drawn considerably against his remittances of Cockerill and Co.'s bills, I used every effort to strengthen our position in London, and in one month remitted our bankers nearly £100,000, a great portion of which I secured on my own credit ; and to these seasonable remittances you were indebted for your London bankers resuming payment of your bills. In May, 1848, I proceeded home to place our agency on a satisfactory footing, and arrange existing accounts with your bankers. Your committee and shareholders here were threatened with arrest for the balance of account, some £60,000; and I succeeded in restraining proceedings by *personally* guaranteeing it, and engaging to proceed to India in fulfilment of my guarantee. This I effectually carried out shortly after my return to Calcutta. Your secretary was deputed to meet me there, that, in communication with your agent and committee, all existing accounts might be carefully gone into, examined and confirmed, and, after satisfactorily accomplishing this, I proceeded to London, and your secretary returned to Meerut, and he and your committee then were so satisfied with what I had done for the bank, that, at your next half-yearly meeting, a piece of plate of the value of £200 was unanimously awarded me, and the highest encomiums passed on the services rendered the bank by me. This piece of plate (like the arrears of commissions), Dāk trips to Meerut, three passages to and from this country on your account, have never yet been received by me, and constitute just claims against you. On my arrival here early in 1849, I assumed charge of your agency, and from that period to the hour of my making over charge in November, 1851, it not only paid its expenses (which it never did before), but realised direct and indirect profits to the parent establishment of some £18,000, with rarely any funds at its command—the head office being generally largely indebted to it, as the accounts of 1849 and 1850 will prove; which is more than double any loss which may have arisen during the period of my incumbency—your published accounts will show you what your agency here has since done; if nothing has been made, it is easy to have lost nothing. In November, 1851, I proceeded to Calcutta on your account, by the special resolution of your Committee, and the earnest desire of many of your shareholders here and in India, but it did not suit Mr. Tandy that I should value his assets, or check his statements, and supercession of my committee, and self was the result.

No. II.

Extract from Mr. Tandy's August Report, 1853, contrasted with facts in disproof, as furnished chiefly from his own pen.

“Adverting to Colonel Geddes' address, whilst disclaiming all participation in the committee's acts, that gentleman carefully avoids any allusion to his strenuous advocacy of Mr. Campbell in the month of January, 1851, whereby, in conjunction with his colleagues, he succeeded in retaining him in the London agency after his removal therefrom had been determined upon by the directors, and such determination communicated to Colonel Geddes, in his capacity of chairman of the committee.

It will be remembered what were the terms applied to the doings in the London office throughout the year 1851. The proprietors and the public can now judge how far they should be modified, or even retracted altogether, whilst it is for those assembled to decide on the course to be pursued with the committee; and, in order to do so in a manner consonant to the wishes of the majority of absentees, terms that have been received from several of the larger and more influential of them, will be laid before the meeting, together with the opinions of counsel on the whole case.”

Extracts from Mr. Tandy's Letters, in contradiction of the above.

Meerut, 8th March, 1851.

"May I hope you will communicate all this to Mr. Campbell, and with it add my own sincere wish that he may be induced to lay aside all thoughts of resigning, as, even from the short time I have been connected with the head office, I feel assured that such a measure would be fraught with the worst consequences to the bank."

Meerut, 10th June, 1851.

"I am desired, in reply, to express to you the gratification it has afforded the directors and trustees to receive so highly satisfactory a report of your office and its operations—a state of things, they feel well assured, cannot but be perpetuated under the present able management of your committee and self, and for which they beg to tender you their thanks accordingly.

The directors could have wished that this review of the London branch, the one saving clause in the wretched past administration of the bank's affairs, had reached them in time to be embodied with the Calcutta and Meerut auditor's statements."

Meerut, 15th June, 1851.

"I was much gratified at the receipt of yours of 24th April, and, in return, beg to assure you that I equally regret, with yourself, anything should have emanated from me, calculated to disturb the harmony which, I am most anxious, should at all times subsist between us."

Meerut, 10th July, 1851.

"In return, I have to thank you for the valuable suggestions regarding the conduct of our future exchange operations.

I have not yet been able to give the inclosures, in your favour, under reply, that consideration which they deserve, but shall look them, and the documents therein referred to, carefully over, when I have little doubt of being able to turn them to the best account. From what little attention I have bestowed on those relative to the disposal of the capital, and the manner in which it should be worked, I see that our views coincide; and although some time has elapsed since you brought those opinions to bear upon the subject, they are equally, if not more, to the purpose now than they were then.

There is nearly 3½ lacs of the Company's paper you remitted yet in hand. It has proved a valuable remittance to us."

Calcutta, 8th November, 1851.

"Many thanks for yours of the 24th September. I am glad to find that the late directors' measures, and the manner in which they were carried out, have given such satisfaction at home. Unless I am much mistaken, however, we have you to thank, for their very favourable reception, and the manner in which they have been responded to, as some apprehension was entertained from this, that measures, so unprecedented and somewhat bold, might be looked on charily by the English proprietors; but, backed by your opinion, we have gained the day as successfully in England as we did in this country. Verily, we have had a triumph."

And, verily, to use Mr. Tandy's own words, the above extracts are most useful refreshing and instructive!

Mr. Tandy, in his garbled statement of the committee's minutes of 15th November, 1851, states as follows, carefully suppressing such portions of the said minutes as are calculated to defeat the erroneous conclusions against the committee and myself, he would wish to establish. I now place these documents side by side.

Mr. Tandy's extracts and conclusions in August Report.

"The committee's minute (as extracted from their own minute book), regarding the disposition of this loss, is somewhat interesting, and highly instructive.

London, 15th November, 1851.

"Mr. Campbell suggested that only £800 should be reported as loss, £500 of which will be made good by the guarantee office, and that the balance £1,503 11s. 11d. should be carried to suspense account, and, by gradual annual deductions from his and Mr. MacNaughten's salary, made good to the bank; the authorities in India to fix the annual deductions, and which the authorities here would see carried out.' To

thus readily adopting the suggestion herein made to frame an untrue report of this loss, may be fairly ascribed the cause why the committee took no steps for recovering the amount from Mr. Campbell himself, either directly, or through the association by whom he was guaranteed. Counsel is of opinion that an action-at-law would have lain against this latter, had it been instituted within the stipulated period of fourteen days from the discovery of the fraud, and the proprietors should be informed why their interests were so neglected on the occasion."

Committee's Minutes in full.

"It is the painful duty of the committee to report to the trustees the first loss which this agency has sustained, under circumstances fully explained in Mr. Coleman's separate report, and which are of such a nature as they hope, in the minds of those who dispassionately consider, will remove blame from this branch. It is occasioned in two ways: first, by a direct robbery of £800 of notes sent to Glyn's through Mr. Crossthwaite, the party whose duty it was to pay in realisation; second, an abstraction by fictitious entries, which preserved the balance at Glyn's, and assimilated it with our ledger balances, preventing detection till the audit was commenced, and amounting to £1,503 11s. 11d. These frauds were perpetrated by Mr. Crossthwaite, the party who kept Glyn's account, and the ledger and cash of the bank; and, from the period he was in the employ of the bank, the character he brought with him, the security he gave, and the uniform correctness of his accounts, as vouched by repeated searching audits, no suspicion was for a moment entertained, and detection was almost impossible, unless his work had been daily done over by another party.

Sensibly appreciating the present position of the bank, and the injurious effects to its credit which might result by the publication of this loss, Mr. Campbell suggested that only £800 should be reported as a loss, £500 of which will be made good by the guarantee office, and that the balance, £1,503 11s. 11d., should be carried to suspense account, and by gradual annual deductions from his and Mr. MacNaughten's salary, made good to the bank; the authorities in India to fix the annual deductions, and which the authorities here would see carried out. He further suggested that, for the future, no cash in hand in excess of £100 should be retained in the office, and that payments over the counter should be limited to sums not exceeding £10, all other payments to be cheques on Glyn's; that all realisations from them, or payments to them be made by Mr. MacNaughten, and on his responsibility, and that Glyn's book should be daily checked with vouchers and our cash book, and signed as so checked by the attending director, and countersigned once a fortnight by committee."

With these before you, it will be for you to judge of the motives influencing Mr. Tandy in unjustly suppressing the most important part of these minutes; and it will be for every honest or right-thinking man to say, whether myself or your committee could have taken a more independent or truthful mode of representing these losses to you, than by calling in the aid and searching scrutiny of one of the first public accountants in the city; and in addition to the above minute, forwarding you his detailed report thereon.

No. III.

Further Extract from Mr. Tandy's Report.

"An examination of the minutes of the London committee shows that the members thereof had ample warning of the charges against Mr. Campbell and some of themselves of trading in indigo with the bank funds."

Committee's Reply.

"It really appears to the committee as if it were almost impossible for Mr. Tandy to make an impartial statement of the facts as connected with any one transaction of the London agency. Every statement that has been published by him has been unfair and perverted, in order to create an unfavourable impression against them; and it is evident, from the last resolution passed at the August meeting (at which

we believe only half-a-dozen very small shareholders were present), that he succeeded in that object. Deceived, however, as the shareholders doubtless must have been, by the falsely-coloured report put before them, nevertheless, we cannot help expressing our astonishment at the following allegation contained in that last resolution, viz.:—'That an examination of the minutes of the London committee shows that the members thereof had ample warning of the charges against Mr. Campbell and some of themselves of trading in indigo with the bank's funds.'

This allegation is, in every particular, utterly unfounded, and contrary to the truth; and we defy the shareholders who framed that resolution to justify themselves in making such a charge against us. No member of the committee ever traded in indigo with the bank's funds, either directly or indirectly; and it is utterly impossible that any examination of the minutes of the London committee can afford evidence of any such trading or dealing with the company's property; and we all solemnly declare, that neither as a collective committee, nor as individual members thereof, did we, or any one of us, ever, at any time, or under any circumstances, use, or sanction the use of, any of the bank's funds, directly or indirectly, for our own use or for any private speculation whatsoever."

This, taken in connection with the following extract from the chairman's letter to the directors at Meerut, dated 23rd January, 1851, will satisfy you that, instead of the bank's funds being used for my private wants in any way, the bank was indebted to me and my funds on more occasions than one for averting its suspension of payment:—

"It is not for us to enter into a retrospect of all that Mr. Campbell has done for the bank; you know how we were assailed and threatened to be arrested by Glyns for the debts of the bank; you know that, with the exception of the last three months, this agency has constantly been kept in a state of beggary; and that, but for Mr. Campbell's exertions and funds we should, on more occasions than one, have been compelled to suspend payment; and you must also know what has been made for the bank under all these disadvantages and difficulties, and yet threatened dismissal from the committee was our reward from you for supporting truth and our own acts against Major Angelo's falsehoods and intrigues."

R. J. R. CAMPBELL.

THE LATE MESSRS. HOLMES'S BANK, ISLE OF MAN.

THE Isle of Man Steam Packet Company being one of the largest depositors in the island, their agent, Mr. Edward Moore, announced a meeting of the shareholders and other depositors to be held in Douglas, on the 7th of December, for the purpose of ascertaining the state of affairs. The meeting was held in the Wellington-hall, and was attended by about 200 persons. Mr. W. Callister, of Ramsey, presided.

Mr. Harris said he would not vouch for the correctness of any one figure or any one statement he might utter, because he was not in a position to do so. He had merely gleaned his information from Mr. Avison, of Liverpool, who had rendered him every assistance. He then proceeded to state that Henry, the father of the late Messrs. Holmes, carried on business, with his three sons, up to 1809, at which time he left the concern in their hands. In 1826, the elder Holmes died, leaving the whole of his estate to Henry, John, and James, subject to the payment of three legacies to his three daughters. One of these legacies, amounting to £6,440, had been paid; the other two, amounting to £12,000, were a charge on the property in Liverpool. The three sons carried on business with satisfaction to themselves, and possessing the confidence of the people of Liverpool and the Isle of Man, up to the year 1845, when they became lenders of money on railway scrip. They continued to advance money to a large amount during the years 1845, 1846, and 1847; and it was supposed they had suffered losses amounting to £200,000, by trusting brokers who did

not understand the business better than themselves. Mr. Henry Holmes died in January, 1848, and by his will he devised the whole of his property to his brothers John and James, and upon their death he left his property to Mr. Isaac Holmes, and on his death to his family, numbering eleven children. The property was enjoyed by John and James up to the time of the death of the former, who left all to James. After alluding to the fact that proceedings had been taken on the part of Mr. Isaac Holmes in the Court of Chancery, and that a bill had been filed at the instance of Mrs. Denison and others, he adverted to the sum of £12,619 which had been taken off the island from the bank. That sum was placed to the credit of Mr. Avison and Mr. Boardman in a Liverpool bank, and was ready to be returned, provided leave was obtained from the Court of Chancery. After referring to a few more matters connected with the estate of the late firm, Mr. Harris then proceeded to lay before the meeting the following statement of the assets and liabilities, during the reading of which many of the depositors expressed their opinions on the value of the property, &c. :—

LIABILITIES.					
Creditors in England	..	..	..	£47,203	0 0
Isle of Man deposits	..	..	..	201,000	0 0
Interest on deposits	..	..	..	5,000	0 0
Notes in circulation	..	..	..	20,000	0 0
Bills falling due	..	..	..	5,000	0 0
Claim of Mr. Isaac Holmes	..	..	..	1,276	0 0
				<u>£279,479</u>	<u>0 0</u>

ASSETS.					
Overdrawn accounts	..	..	..	£6,026	0 0
Rent due on island	..	..	..	2,000	0 0
Interest on mortgages	..	..	..	370	0 0
Debts in England	..	..	..	4,115	0 0
Real property in England and Isle of Man (less £12,000 due Mrs. Whittaker and Mrs. Denison)				121,369	0 0
Mortgages	..	..	..	25,800	0 0
Stock in island	..	..	..	4,417	0 0
Household furniture in Liverpool	..	..	..	2,189	0 0
Farm stock and stock in trade on island	..	..	..	3,000	0 0
Cash in Messrs. Leyland's bank	..	..	..	7,184	0 0
Railway stock	..	..	..	18,641	0 0
Cash in bank in name of Messrs. Avison and Boardman	..	..	..	12,619	0 0
Stock in Wick and in transit	..	..	..	1,000	0 0
Cash in Bank of Mona	..	..	..	2,257	0 0
Cash due by a debtor	..	..	..	3,600	0 0
				<u>£214,587</u>	<u>0 0</u>

The estimate of the assets was considered to be extremely low; and some gentlemen were of opinion that the real property on the island would realise £10,000 more than what it was estimated at. Mr. Harris said that there was some real property in Wick which was not accounted for, and which some gentlemen were of opinion was worth £6,000.

The chairman remarked that it had been stated that the books of the firm in England had not been balanced for years; to which Mr. Harris replied, that such statement was perfectly true.

Mr. Dumbell said the security of Messrs. Henry, John, and James Holmes was not altered, and was good for every note issued; and, therefore, it was to be lamented that poor people should part with their notes under 20s. in the pound. He moved, "That the following gentlemen be appointed a committee to represent the creditors of the estate, and be authorised to take such steps as they may deem necessary for the interests of the said creditors, namely, G. W. Dumbell, Douglas; F. B. Clucas, Ramsey; W. F. Moore, Tromode; W. Gell, Douglas; and W. Callister, Ramsey."

The chairman said that they had the comfort of knowing that the assets would bring £214,000.

The proposition of Mr. Dumbell was carried, and the meeting was unanimous in advising that dividends of the estate should be declared as early as possible, Mr. Dumbell stating that there were persons who had not one shilling, as they had depended on Messrs. Holmes's bank.

Legal Miscellany.

IN RE ABRAHAM HENRY CHAMBERS THE ELDER AND ABRAHAM
HENRY CHAMBERS THE YOUNGER.

Court of Bankruptcy, Basinghall Street, Nov. 29. (Before Mr. Commissioner HOLROYD.)—This was a final dividend meeting. The bankrupts were formerly bankers in Bond-street and South Moulton-street.

Mr. Espin, solicitor to the assignees, now stated that he had the satisfaction of announcing to the court and the creditors, that all the assets of the bankrupts' estates had been realised, and the whole of the litigation connected with them put an end to. The bankruptcy itself dated so far back as 1825, and some of the proceedings which had resulted in their being able to declare this dividend to-day had been commenced many years previously to the failure of Messrs. Chambers. These, however, were now concluded, and the assignees were consequently enabled to declare a dividend of the estate. He could only regret that this had not been accomplished at an earlier period of this unfortunate bankruptcy, but the court would easily comprehend the difficulties that had arisen, and the inevitable delay that had occurred. The amount of debts proved up to this day against the joint estate of the bankrupts was, £224,640 19s. 11d.; proved this day, £813 12s. 9d.; making a total of £225,454 12s. 8d.; and the number of creditors who had proved under the joint estate was 475. On the separate estate of A. H. Chambers the elder the debts proved amounted to £11,358 12s. 10d., and the number of creditors proving was forty-six. The amount of assets realised on the joint and separate estates applicable for division among the creditors was nearly £200,000, out of which a dividend of 13s. 4d. in the pound had already been paid to the joint creditors, and a further dividend would have to be declared this day, which he expected would be not less than 2s. 8d. in the pound, or probably a fraction more, making together a total dividend of about 16s. in the pound. On the separate estate of A. H. Chambers the elder, there had been paid a dividend of 17s. in the pound, and the assets in hand would pay a further dividend of 6d. in the pound, making together a total of 17s. 6d. in the pound. On the separate estate of Mr. Chambers the younger, a dividend of 20s. in the pound had been paid. The above sum of £200,000 was the amount divisible among the creditors, after making provision for payment out of the assets of the estate of some very considerable amounts. The legal expenses of the bankruptcy, and of the proceedings arising out of it, had been

(especially in the early stages of the affairs) extremely heavy; and he saw, by a statement made to this court at an audit meeting held in 1844, that they had amounted, up to the year 1840, to £31,700; and since that period, he should say, they would amount to £5,000 or £6,000 more. The sum of £25,000 was paid to Mr. Chambers and his family, by way of compromise, to end the litigation as to the act of bankruptcy, which Mr. Chambers disputed. The sum of £1,200 had also been paid to the Messrs. Chambers as the allowance to which they were entitled in consequence of their estates having realised a dividend equal to the full amount of that prescribed by the act of Parliament; the sum of £7,000 and upwards had been paid to the official assignee for commission, and various other expenses and payments had to be provided for. It was, he believed, pretty well known that this unfortunate bankruptcy, so notorious for the litigation to which it gave rise, took place in November, 1825. The firm, however, had stopped payment a year previously, and the estate was being wound up by trustees nominated by the creditors. A docket, however, was struck against Messrs. Chambers, and the firm was thereupon declared bankrupts. The validity of the bankruptcy was disputed by Mr. Chambers, on the ground that he had not committed any act of bankruptcy, and a series of trials took place, in which he believed all the first legal talent of the day was engaged, to determine this apparently simple point. These contests occupied the different courts for a period of ten years, and on the last trial in the Court of Queen's Bench, at Westminster, after a hearing of two days, a compromise was effected by which, in consideration of £25,000, the sum before-mentioned, Mr. Chambers admitted the act of bankruptcy; but the validity of the bankruptcy was still liable to be disputed by other parties, and indeed one person did continue to contest it for some years afterwards. The various chancery suits in which the different estates had been involved, and the judgments which had been obtained against Mr. Chambers, had to be cleared off—indeed, the property had, to use an expression of the late Vice-Chancellor of England in reference to it, got into such a state of “branglement” that it seemed almost impossible to extricate it. The most important suit was that which involved the question whether Mr. Chambers was the purchaser, or only mortgagee in possession, of the opera-house, now called Her Majesty's Theatre. This was ultimately decided in favour of the assignees, on an appeal to the House of Lords in 1843. Before this took place, however (*viz.*, in 1839), three of the original five assignees (*viz.*, Bernasconi, Garrett, and Lennard) having died, the creditors, tired (as well they might be) of waiting for a dividend, determined on appointing three assignees in their place, in the hope that this might have some effect in bringing matters to a conclusion. The estate, however, had got into such bad odour from the litigation that had taken place, and that which was still pending, that great difficulty was experienced in getting any one to undertake the task. Three gentlemen, however, at length consented to be named, and they were chosen by the creditors; these were the late Mr. Denew, Mr. Legh, and Mr. Artis. The then surviving original assignees were Mr. Groom and Mr. Richardson, who have both since died, and left Mr. Legh and Mr. Artis the two only surviving creditors' assignees. The late Mr. Hamilton was then appointed solicitor to the estate, and every effort was used by him to bring the mass of litigation in which it was involved to a conclusion; and by his exertions, in which he was most zealously assisted by Mr. Denew and Mr. Legh, who took the active part on that occasion, he succeeded in effecting a sale of the opera-house, after the decision of the House of Lords. Shortly after this, however (*viz.*, in January, 1845), Mr. Hamilton died, and the assignees then appointed him (Mr. Espin) their solicitor. Since that time he had used all his endeavours, and had spared no pains to carry out what was in progress, and to bring to a conclusion matters

which had been so long pending, with a view to realising the estate for the benefit of the creditors. The result had been that, aided by the assignees, they were ultimately successful. When he undertook the business, the sale of the opera-house, the title to which was very complicated from the Chancery proceedings and other matters in which it was involved, had to be completed. These difficulties were got over by a new lease being granted under the direction of the Court of Chancery, and a good title was thus made to that property. The various judgments against the estates had to be got rid of before they could be sold. Some of these were arranged, and against others a perpetual injunction was granted by the Lord Chancellor, after every means had been tried to get them satisfied in the courts of common law. The other estates were thus set free, and, some Chancery suits in which they were also involved having been successfully terminated, the property was sold. The question as to the joint and separate property, which was expected to give rise to much litigation, was speedily and satisfactorily settled, and at a small expense; so that, in November 1845, the assignees were enabled to declare a first dividend of 9s. in the pound; since then two others had been declared. The last matter, a suit of *Chambers v. Waters*, involving a question of account between Mr. Chambers and the late Mr. Waters, which had been pending for twenty years, having been recently decided in favour of the assignees, a sum of upwards of £54,000 had been recovered for the estate, and the assignees were now enabled to declare the present final dividend, which would, he thought, with the previous dividends, much exceed the amount the estate was ever expected to pay. This dividend might be considered a final one, although there would probably, in the course of next year, be a small further sum coming to the estate from some costs to be recovered in the Court of Chancery. This, however, would only be very trifling, compared with the amount of debts proved.

His Honour asked them if there were any original creditors to receive the benefit of the final dividend?

Mr. Espin was afraid not. On looking through the list, he could see little but executors and trustees. The original creditors now living were very few indeed.

His Honour said, he supposed a good many of the debts due to the estate had been disposed of before now.

Mr. Espin said, in reply, a great many of them had been bought up. One person bought £30,000 worth at 10s. in the pound. The debts were sold at various prices, some so low as 2s. 6d. in the pound.

His Honour hoped this might be a solitary case, both in the expense of litigation and in its protracted duration.

Mr. Espin said, that some of the litigation connected with the case dated as far back as 1807, long before the bankruptcy.

PSEUDO FOREIGN BILLS.—IN RE OPPENHEIM.

Court of Bankruptcy, Basinghall-street, Dec. 19. (Before Mr. Commissioner FANE.)—This was the certificate meeting in the case of Simon Lazarus Oppenheim, merchant, of Broad-street-buildings. The accounts extended from the 1st January, 1851, to the date of the failure. At the former period the bankrupt appears to have had a capital of £5,397. He now owes to creditors £7,611; liabilities, £12,212; ditto on bills, £1,100; ditto not expected to be proved, £5,282. His property was estimated at £889; doubtful debts, £11,908. The profits had been £2,374; trade expenses, £708; personal ditto, £1,449. Mr. Lawrence supported the bankrupt, and stated that no one appeared to oppose. His Honour made inquiry as to the circumstances of some bills which had been drawn in this country, but purported to be drawn in

Natal. The bankrupt said the bills had been brought to him by Mr. Jackson, who had drawn them on behalf of Messrs. Jackson and Co., of Natal. He accepted them. Mr. Hawkins appeared for the London and Westminster Bank, who held one of the bills in question. He wished to call the attention of the court to the great injury which had resulted from the system of drawing bills in this country, without stamp, on the pretence of their being drawn in Natal. Amongst others, the London and Westminster Bank had been extensively defrauded by discounting some of these bills. He produced one of the bills, dated "Natal, 15th of Dec., 1852," £300, purporting to be drawn by Jackson and Co., as a foreign bill, accepted by the bankrupt, and by him put in circulation. It was drawn in the form in which foreign bills were usually drawn; it was discounted by the London and Westminster Bank; then the bankruptcy occurred, and it was found that this bill and others were utterly worthless, and the proofs were rejected. The Commissioner—I think the party who ought to be punished, for all this, is the Chancellor of the Exchequer (laughter). Not the present Chancellor of the Exchequer in particular, but the one who made a law, the effect of which is, that one man may commit a fraud and another may be punished for it. This is the second case of the kind which has come before me in the last few months. A bankrupt had drawn a number of bills without stamps, purporting to be issued abroad; then, when the parties came here to prove, they found they had been cheated out of their money. The bankrupt, in examination, stated—The bill produced was accepted in my office, several of the same kind were made, to the amount of £4,000. I know that a bill drawn in this country requires a stamp. These were drawn as from abroad. I did not obtain discount for the bills, nor receive any of the money. I accepted them as the agent of Bergtheil and Young. Jackson, the drawer, is their agent in Natal. Bergtheil and Young have an office of their own in London, but I was in the habit of accepting on their account. The Commissioner—In that case, it would appear that Bergtheil and Young are responsible to your clients. Mr. Hawkins—But they are not indorsers. The Commissioner—You ought to get some of the law reformers, who are so plentiful in these times, to give their attention to this species of fraud. Mr. Hawkins—The effect will be, if the system goes on to a much greater extent, that foreign bills will be almost worthless in this country. Mr. Vallings, who represented Messrs. Overend, Gurney and Co., complained of a similar fraud by means of a four months' bill for £250, which purported to be drawn at Dominica. On the credit of that bill, Messrs. Gurney, who discounted to an immense extent every day, had given value for that amount. The bankrupt admitted that he knew the bill, if drawn in London, would require a stamp. The Commissioner—I should have no difficulty whatever in granting Mr. Oppenheim a first-class certificate, had it not been for the difficulty arising out of his having knowingly accepted bills here which were dated in Natal, though actually drawn in London. Beyond this there is nothing whatever in any part of the case to deprive him of a first-class certificate. (To the bankrupt)—If you knew that bills drawn in this country required a stamp, why did you accept those without a stamp? Bankrupt—Because I did not suppose, as they were in respect of foreign transactions, that they required a stamp. The Commissioner—Do you know that this is commonly done in London? Bankrupt—Yes, every day, in all houses, or I should not have done it. Mr. Vallings said he must deny the statement that this was done by any regular mercantile house, and it was most desirable that the practice should be entirely stopped. The Commissioner—I quite agree with you there; and I also think it highly desirable that some other means of enforcing the stamp laws should be adopted. After hearing all that can be said on the subject, I am of opinion that Mr. Oppenheim did not know, under the circumstances in which he accepted that bill, that he was assisting Jackson and Co. in an evasion of the stamp laws.

I am inclined to think that he erred in ignorance; and, as every other part of the case is entirely in his favour (he has carried on business in a most respectable manner, and has fallen into difficulties through the failure of other persons), I think he is entitled to a first-class certificate.

THE BANK OF FRANCE.

THE *Moniteur* publishes the following monthly debtor and creditor account of the Bank of France, made up to the 8th of December:—

DEBTOR.						F.	C.
Capital of the bank	..	..	..	..	..	91,250,000	0
Reserve of the bank	..	..	..	..	..	12,980,750	14
Reserve of the bank in landed property	..	..	..	..	..	4,000,000	0
Bank notes in circulation	..	..	..	..	..	483,836,400	0
Do. of the branch banks	..	..	..	..	..	148,258,125	0
Bank notes to order	..	..	..	..	..	7,095,784	36
Receipts payable at sight	..	..	..	..	..	10,247,376	0
Treasury account current, creditor	..	..	..	..	..	59,372,890	97
Sundry accounts current	..	..	..	..	..	127,797,069	78
Do. of the branch banks	..	..	..	..	..	28,902,704	0
Dividends payable	..	..	..	..	..	417,045	25
Discounts and sundry interests	..	..	..	..	..	7,825,762	25
Commission on the care of title-deeds	..	..	..	..	..	25,295	10
Rediscounted during the last six months	..	..	..	..	..	557,492	0
Received on account of protested bills	..	..	..	..	..	418,611	1
Sundries	..	..	..	..	..	2,523,316	20
						F.985,508,622	4

CREDITOR.						F.	C.
Cash in hand	..	..	..	..	..	216,786,391	84
Do. in the branch banks	..	..	..	..	..	100,186,664	0
Commercial bills overdue	..	..	..	..	..	559,187	46
Commercial bills discounted, but not yet due, of which 67,594,121 <i>l.</i> were received from the branch banks	..	..	..	..	..	177,718,286	62
Do. in the branch banks	..	..	..	..	..	206,829,889	0
Advanced on a deposit of bullion	..	..	..	..	..	1,736,200	0
Do. by the branch banks	..	..	..	..	..	2,748,893	0
Advanced on French public securities	..	..	..	..	..	32,745,236	10
Do. by the branch banks	..	..	..	..	..	12,158,169	0
Advanced on railway securities	..	..	..	..	..	67,590,300	0
Do. by the branch banks	..	..	..	..	..	21,107,074	0
Advanced to the state on the treaty of June 30, 1848	..	..	..	..	..	70,000,000	0
Government stock reserved	..	..	..	..	..	10,000,000	0
Do. disposable	..	..	..	..	..	55,453,380	37
Hotel and furniture of the bank	..	..	..	..	..	4,000,000	0
Landed property of the branch banks	..	..	..	..	..	4,084,907	0
Expenses of the management of the bank and branch banks	..	..	..	..	..	1,459,585	88
Sundries	..	..	..	..	..	344,257	77
						F.985,508,622	4

Certified by the Governor of the Bank, Count D'ARGOUT.

It appears, from the preceding account, that the cash in hand has decreased by 13,970,000*l.* The commercial bills discounted have decreased

by 9,926,000*l*. The deposits on public securities have decreased by 2,544,000*l*. The deposits on railway securities have decreased by 5,302,000*l*. The bank notes in circulation have decreased by 23,166,000*l*. The balance to the credit of the Treasury has increased by 9,022,000*l*. The sundry credits have decreased by 16,528,000*l*.

Reports of Joint-Stock Banks.

BANK OF IRELAND.

THE half-yearly meeting of the court of proprietors took place on the 12th Dec., at 1 o'clock, Mr. John Barton, governor of the bank, in the chair. The following report was read :—

“That it is the opinion of this court that a dividend of £4 per cent. be made to the proprietors of bank stock, free of income tax, for the half-year ending the 25th inst. That public notice be given that payment will be made at the bank on and after the 2nd of January next. That the transfer books be shut from the 12th inst. until the 2nd of January next.”

The governor, in moving the adoption of the above report, said, that he was requested by the court of directors to state that, in making the proposed dividend, after having provided for the payment of income tax, there would remain, according to the estimate, a sum of about £11,000 to be added to the “rest.”

A proprietor asked whether it was the intention of the court of directors to pay the income tax for the officers of the establishment.

Governor.—Yes; it is our intention to do so.

The court then adjourned.

BANK OF AUSTRALASIA.

THE half-yearly meeting of the Bank of Australasia was held at the office of the corporation, on Monday, the 5th of December, Mr. Oliver Farrer in the chair, when the following statement was presented :—

“In presenting their half-yearly statement, the directors have again to congratulate the proprietors on the prosperous condition of the bank. The latest advices received from the respective branch establishments afford evidence of the satisfactory progress and continued increase in the general business, and fully justify the directors in stating that the profits during the year of account, ending in October last, will exceed those of the preceding year. Under these circumstances, the directors have no hesitation in announcing that the formation of a permanent guarantee fund, which it has long been their earnest desire to create, and which has been so strenuously urged by the proprietors themselves, is now a matter of certain attainment. The directors entertain no doubt, that after providing for the payment upon the shares for the ensuing year, at the present rate of 15 per cent. per annum, the accounts to be submitted in June next will show they have been enabled to separate and set apart, as a guarantee fund, the sum of £200,000 to be reserved as a protection to the capital, the interest thereof being applicable to dividends. This important object being accomplished, a larger proportion of the profits, as they may from time to time be realised, will then be available for future division. The proprietors must be aware that late events have imparted an unprecedented impulse to the trade of Australia, and that fears have been entertained that the imports into the colonies have been in excess; but there is every reason to believe that their inherent wealth, abundant resources, and increasing population, will soon enable them to recover from any effects of overstocked markets. In compliance with repeated solicitations from many

of the most respectable and influential residents, branch banks were established in July, in the thriving settlements of Port Fairy and Portland Bay, in the colony of Victoria; and another, at Moreton Bay, in New South Wales, is in course of formation. The directors embrace this opportunity of stating that they have secured a valuable and advantageous site for bank premises for the use of the London office, situated in Threadneedle-street, the building of which will be commenced forthwith. The directors have again the satisfaction of recording their sense of the services of the home establishment, and of the superintendent, local directors, managers, and other officers of the several branch establishments in the colonies, by whose continued zeal and energy, under the most trying circumstances, the interests of the corporation have been ably sustained."

Chairman—Gentlemen, as you are aware, at this period of the year, when we make what we call our statement to you, it is formed upon estimates and probabilities. In forming those estimates, we endeavour as much as we can not to run into extremes, but to take rather a moderate than an excessive view of what may eventually be realised. The course of events during the last year has been, I may say, without drawback, satisfactory in almost every respect, as appertaining to this bank. I am rather surprised if the profits, of which we shall hope to lay before you the exact amount, do not this year exceed those of last year. I, for one, rather anticipated that it might have been otherwise, and that, when the first flow of gold and the profits arising from it had to a certain extent ceased, we might have had some trifling drawback. But, instead of that, our profits will turn out to be even greater, though made, as regards many of them, in a very different manner from what they were last year. During the last year, which expired in October last, the chief of our profits have been made, not from purchasing gold at a low price and selling it again, but from the very large amount of exchange operations between the colonies and this country. That is, to my mind, and I dare say it will be so to many of yours, very satisfactory, because that is a source of profit which is more likely to continue to increase than to decrease.

The chief, indeed the only, new feature in the statement which we have now laid before you, is, that we shall be able to achieve that which certainly was very desirable—that, without trenching upon the reasonable expectations of the shareholders in the shape of dividend, we shall be able at the end of the year just expired, in October, not only to continue the former rate of payment upon the shares of 15 per cent., but also we shall have been able to set apart, as a guarantee fund, no less a sum than £200,000. It has been frequently urged upon us, and all my colleagues have felt, that this bank did not hold the position it ought to be in, till it possessed such a fund. The example was set us by a rival establishment; and it was urged upon us, at a previous meeting, that the reason why our shares did not bear the same rate in the market as those of that establishment, was, that we were deficient in a guarantee fund—their shares, since they had established one, having been rising in the market. All of us, I am sure, feel that it is a matter of safety and prudence to provide such a fund; and, after we have done that, if things go on as they do now, we shall have it in our power to give to you a larger proportion of the profits which will afterwards be realised. But I feel sure that no persons will be dissatisfied with our present payment, when I draw your attention for one single moment to the different situation of our establishment now to that which it was about three or four years ago. Every one here recollects—no one more painfully than myself—that imperious necessity compelled us for a long time to suspend the payment of dividends altogether. Had we then had that which we are now about to establish, a guarantee fund—a real, separate guarantee fund—that calamity might never have taken place. With respect to the future, who can say, in the multiplicity of business which is being carried on—looking to the magnitude of our operations and the innumerable number of them—although this

year has been one of unmeditated prosperity and success, some dire calamity may not come upon us unexpectedly? and, if it should, we shall be prepared to meet it. I think, as prudent persons, therefore, instead of dividing every penny which is made among the shareholders, you will think we are really looking to your permanent interest, to the credit, respectability and safety of the establishment, in forming the fund which we now state it is our intention to do. The following statement of our progress may not be unacceptable. We resumed the payment of dividends in October, 1849; at that time we paid all we could afford, 3 per cent; in 1850, we paid 4 per cent.; in 1851, 5 per cent; in 1852, 6 per cent; in April and October of this year, 15 per cent.; and we expect, indeed we feel certain, that we can insure that dividend to you for the next year, and at the same time establish a guarantee fund of £200,000. The result is this, that in two years we have been enabled to pay not only a dividend of 15 per cent., but to lay by £200,000, and I do not even say that what we have hitherto called the reserve will be cut down to the last shilling, but will still be able to go on paying dividends, and if our profit continue at the present rate, those dividends will be increased. If they should, however, be to a certain extent diminished, there will be the interest upon this £200,000 to add to them, and, whatever they may be, we shall be able to divide among you a much larger proportion than we have hitherto ventured to do.

It is satisfactory to know that, in every department of our business, the increase has been wonderful; and I have the satisfaction of saying that, in some respects—and one of them a most important one—during the last three months,—that is, up to July—the money that we have been enabled to employ in the colonies has been very much increased. The moneys employed in the colonies hitherto has been small, but it has increased more, in the last three months that we have estimated returns for, than any other branch of the business. Our advances have increased, between April and July, from £980,000 to £1,350,000. Our circulation, which in October, 1852, was £660,000, in July was £915,000. Our deposits, which in October, 1852, were £2,200,000, had increased up to July to £3,825,000; and, besides that, we have on hand a very large amount of bullion. That bullion has, as occasion required, come over to this country, and it is made use of in meeting the bills which are drawn upon us.

The chairman, having detailed at length the particulars of the enormous increase in the bank's business, in the course of which he paid a well-merited compliment to the officers engaged in the London and colonial establishments, concluded his able address by congratulating the shareholders on the satisfactory position of their affairs.

An uninteresting conversation then ensued, with regard to the purchase of the ground for the site of the new bank premises; after which, special votes of thanks were passed to the directors, &c., and the meeting broke up.

Communications

To the Editor of the Bankers' Magazine,

BANKERS' CLERKS' SALARIES.

SIR,—Facts and principles are of slow growth. Rarely do they reach maturity, become recognised and acted on, till they have passed through an ordeal of public investigation, more or less protracted.

Thus has it been with regard to the subject of bankers' clerks' salaries.

Long has it been true that they have not been adequately remunerated;

but the fact has only of late received that recognition which is calculated to inspire hope for the future.

Nothing further is wanted now to satisfy the public on this point; and as we have had the subject, in some instances, brought prominently forward, I venture to hope that your readers will soon have the pleasure of hearing, through the medium of your columns, that bankers' clerks are fairly remunerated, and that this desired end has been gained, not by a strike (a certain indication of a low intellectual and moral standing), but by continued devotedness and zeal in their calling, public opinion being their apologist and safeguard.

Something has already been accomplished in this good cause; but we still have to ask, when will there be that appreciation of banking-power labour that shall insure the deserved reward?

In reply to such a question, it must obviously be observed, that to render this practicable, the obstacle to it must be removed; and, of all inquiries with regard to this subject, the most important is—Where is the obstacle?

And here I would be permitted to ask, whether a careful and unprejudiced consideration of the subject would not show that it must be with the directors, the shareholders always evincing a readiness that is honourable to them, to give a due portion to the labourer. It should be remarked, however, that the obstacle is probably more directly attributable to the system that is generally adopted with regard to salaries, than to boards of directors; so that, all things being considered, directors may not be the impediment, excepting in that they voluntarily adopt a system that is not just in its operation.

Now, with some banking establishments the subject of salaries is not a vexed question. The plan adopted is to give a regular annual increase, experience and ability being the road to promotion. Such a plan I conceive to be far better than general discontent, and a whole host of annual applications for increase of pay.

Perhaps it would not be becoming in me, to say what value ought to be set on the services of bankers' apprentices, or at what salary clerkship should commence. But as we may suppose that those who attain a clerkship are, generally speaking, of age, I would ask what would be considered a fair sum as salary for such a person, bearing in mind that he has spent an apprenticeship of four years?

I will suppose the answer to be £80 per annum (the Bank of England gives £90, I believe, the first year). Now, what would such a sum give an officer of ten years' standing? A calculation will show that his salary would then be £130, and as he would be then 27 years of age, I cannot suppose that it would be considered too much.

In conclusion I would observe, that as much has been written on this subject, with but little of practical good, I hope, sir, you will still give the matter your attention and sanction, and that you will soon have the pleasure of presenting to your readers expressions of satisfaction and contentment, arising from a practical tangible recognition of the fact that bankers' clerks have not been amply remunerated.

I am, sir, your obedient servant,

Nov. 17th, 1853.

BANKERS' CLERK.

P.S.—I have only dwelt on salaries in the above until this matter is adjusted; it would be like putting the cart before the horse, to talk about "benevolent funds."

SIR,—The various meetings of the joint-stock banks will shortly take place, to declare dividends, and divide surplus profits among the shareholders. On several occasions you have called the attention of the directors and pro-

proprietors to the inadequate remuneration paid to their officers. Pray do so again, in justice to the general body, after the very large returns secured during the past year.

When you remember the long service of their old *employés*, I think you will admit that the time has arrived when some consideration should be shown for their great attention to the interests of the shareholders, as well as for the punctual discharge of their important and responsible duties. It cannot be denied that, through these means, the connections of these establishments are maintained. It is true the interests of the managers have been attended to, and very justly—for they are responsible, to a great extent, for the amount of prosperity enjoyed; but, at the same time, it must be borne in mind that the managers themselves must depend upon the tried experience of their principal officers.

The managers of banks possess many privileges in addition to their incomes; they have splendid houses to live in, rent free, as well as fuel and light found them, and several banks have laid out large sums of money to furnish the premises for their comfort.

Many clerks, on the other hand, have not had an increase of salary for several years; and, under such circumstances, income tax should, at least, be paid for them. The question involved is of great importance to those most interested, particularly when it appears that the managers' incomes vary from £1,800 per annum to £800 per annum; and the average salaries of the clerks present a striking contrast, since they range from £250 to £80 per annum.

Before I conclude, I should wish to point out, that where men hold such responsible situations in banking houses, it is the duty of the directors to be just to their servants before they are liberal to their proprietors.

It seems, by the annual reports, that very few companies have undertaken to provide for their clerks in sickness and old age. Some private bankers have gone so far as to insure the lives of their officers, and others act with even greater liberality. The Union Bank of London, forms, I am told, an honourable exception—the scale of salaries being regulated in a proper and satisfactory manner.

Trusting that you will not let this subject drop, until the whole of the joint-stock and other banking establishments recognise the value of the services of the entire staff of their officials,

I am, sir, yours respectfully,

Dec. 20th, 1853.

NEMO.

INDORSEMENTS OR STAMPED CHEQUES PAYABLE TO ORDER.

SIR,—Will you oblige me by stating whether or not, in the case of stamped cheques payable to order, the signature of a special indorsee is legally requisite? *e. g.*—A draws a cheque on his banker, payable to B; B specially indorses to C, who, not noticing this, pays the cheque to his banker without indorsing, and has it returned as informal. He contends this is not necessary.

I am, sir, yours respectfully,

Dec. 6th, 1853.

SCHWARTZ.

[We think the indorsement by C was necessary. The 16 and 17 Vict., c. 59, s. 19, was not, in our opinion, intended to render indorsements, hitherto required, unnecessary, but simply to relieve the banker from the duty of ascertaining if the indorsement was genuine. The section in question refers to "subsequent" indorsements.]

LETTER FROM BANKER RESPECTING CHEQUE.

SIR,—Will you oblige me by stating, in the next number of your valuable journal, whether a letter written by a banker, acknowledging the receipt of a cheque upon him, from a person in London or elsewhere, and intimating that he can receive the proceeds at the bank's London agents, is liable to stamp duty?

I am, sir, your obedient servant,

Dec. 7th, 1853.

A CASHIER.

[We think that the effect of the letter is the same as if the banker had written upon the cheque the words—"Accepted, payable at A. B.'s (the London Agents)," and that it does not require a stamp. Another view may be, that the letter is merely intended to give information, and not to create any liability; and then it would not require a stamp. It is, however, probable that, if such a letter were offered as evidence in a court of justice, many cavils would be raised against its reception. The stamp laws still require great modification.]

USURY LAWS.—WHAT IS A BANKER?

SIR,—Amongst country bankers, it is a common practice to make advances on the deposit of deeds relating both to freehold and leasehold property, &c.; these advances are generally understood to be only of a temporary nature. In such cases, it is legal to charge, in addition to £5 per cent. per annum interest, any other charge, as commission, whether it be $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. half-yearly, or more. Do the usury laws in any way affect such equitable mortgages? or, does it make any difference, if the person depositing such deeds simply writes to the banker to state the object of his so depositing them, no stamp being requisite in such a case, only when an agreement is entered into to convey the property when required—does the manner of depositing affect the question in any way?

Would you, also, at the same time, inform me what, in a legal sense, is meant by a banker? What does the law mean, or the act of Parliament, which says:—"All cheques drawn upon a *banker* or *bankers*, &c.?" "Who are bankers? A license is required for the issue of notes, and, also, when stamps are compounded for. Does the law recognise any person or persons as bankers who do not take out a license? or, rather, can the business of a banker be carried on without any license?

Your obedient servant,

Dec. 16th, 1853.

A CONSTANT READER.

[Any charge or security upon land is usurious if more than £5 per cent. interest is taken. We think an equitable mortgage at more than £5 per cent. is usurious. We have no doubt that the business of a banker may be carried on without any license. There is much business transacted by bankers; but, probably, a banker may be defined to be a person who holds himself out to the public as a general cashier, to receive their money, keep it safely, and return it on demand.]

THE PRODUCTION OF PROBATES OF WILLS.

SIR,—From the answer you have given to a question on this subject, in your last number, it may be inferred to be your opinion that a banker ought, and therefore can, legally require the production of the probates, before he parts with the money of a deceased depositor. I have also always had that opinion, and have acted upon it in all cases requiring caution. I beg, therefore, to state to you the following case within my own knowledge, and to request your opinion of it.

A customer of the bank died, having a considerable sum of money at the credit of his account. Very shortly after, a will of the deceased was presented at the bank, by a solicitor of very doubtful respectability, by which the widow was appointed sole executrix; and in her name, and upon her written authority, the balance was demanded by the solicitor. The bank thought it prudent to request that a probate of the will might be first obtained and produced. The solicitor refused to do so, and threatened immediate proceedings if the money was withheld. The bank took the advice of its own solicitor, and persisted in requiring the probate. An action was then actually commenced by the solicitor of the widow, in her name. The bank took further legal advice, and were informed that if afterwards the widow, by the production of the probate, confirmed her right to the money, the suit would go against the bank, and thereby incur the loss of the expenses on both sides.

The bank, under these circumstances, paid the depositor's balance to the solicitor, and also the costs of the action as far as it had proceeded.

I shall be glad to hear that you think there was no necessity for such a course; but I fear all bankers are in the anomalous position I have described, and must either pay on the production of a will, running the risk of its being a good one, or run the other risk of the costs of an action-at-law, if commenced against them, on their refusal.

I am, sir, your obedient servant,

December, 1853.

A BANKER.

[It seems doubtful whether it would be any defence to a claim made by an executor before he proved the will, to allege that the claim would have been settled if the will had been proved, and that the party was ready and willing to settle, upon production of probate. But it is quite clear that, before the executor could take the case into court, and, indeed, before he could safely take the step in the cause which succeeds the writ, and is technically called the declaration, he must be provided with the probate. The risk of costs (if any) in order to compel the production of the probate, cannot therefore amount to any considerable sum. In *Toller's Law of Executors*, p. 47, the law is thus laid down—"He (an executor) may commence actions in right of the testator as for trespass committed or goods taken, or on a contract made in the testator's life time, although he cannot declare before probate, since, in order to assert such claims in a court of justice, he must produce the copy of the will, certified under seal, as above mentioned, or, as it is sometimes styled, the letters testamentary; but, when produced, they shall have relation to the time of suing out the writ."]

Notes of the Month,

RUN UPON IRISH SAVINGS BANKS.—The Irish papers state that a "run" has taken place upon the savings banks in the City of Dublin, and that the amount for which notices had been given to withdraw, between the 23rd and 26th of November, had reached £40,000. The origin of this movement is quite unaccounted for, the banks being perfectly solvent. A statement, circulated by the managers of the Abbey-street branch, shows, that the trustees have lodged with the Commissioners for the Reduction of the National Debt £275,000; and that, in addition to this, there is a cash balance to their credit in the Bank of Ireland, exclusive of the premises at Abbey-street and Meath-street. It has been since reported, that the panic originated in the Cork Savings Bank having been closed, for the purpose of making some alterations in their office arrangements, which has been considered, by some of the more

credulous of the depositors, as a stoppage of the bank. The following letter has been addressed to the trustees from the National Debt Office, which has at once allayed all excitement:—

“National Debt Office, Nov. 28, 1853.

Gentlemen,—I have to acquaint you, in reply to your letter, dated the 26th inst., that, under the circumstances in which your bank is at present placed, the commissioners have acceded to your request, and have accordingly, this day, directed the secretary of the Bank of Ireland to pay your drafts to any amount you may require, without waiting the usual period of four days, so long as the present run upon your bank continues.

The commissioners will be glad to learn that the circulation amongst the depositors of the official certificate of the amount of your assets, has had the effect of dispelling the alarm which the rumour referred to by you credited.

I am, gentlemen, your most obedient servant,

JAMES HIGHAM, Assistant Secretary.”

*The Trustees of the Savings Bank,
Abbey-street, Dublin.*

DEATH OF MR. A. H. CHAMBERS.—The bankruptcy of Chambers and Son, the eminent bankers, is about being brought to a close, the joint estate paying 16s. in the pound, and this after a most expensive and ruinous litigation. In our *Legal Miscellany* will be found the particulars of the proceedings when this dividend was announced, on the 29th of November. On the 4th of December, Mr. A. H. Chambers died at the Cottage, Paddington, aged 90, having had the satisfaction to survive and see his estate meet, within a trifle, the claims of the whole of his creditors, notwithstanding the period of imprisonment and privation through which he passed previously to arrangement being made with the assignees. The final adjustment of this case proves to the world that Mr. Chambers's property was more than sufficient to satisfy all demands upon his estate, and that he was in a position warranting his steady refusal to acknowledge himself a bankrupt.

Monetary Intelligence.

REVIEW OF THE MONEY MARKET FOR THE MONTH OF DECEMBER, 1853.

POLITICAL considerations continue to interfere with the progress of financial affairs. The tenor of the continental advices, together with the temporary secession of Lord Palmerston from office, having produced increased apprehensions, a great desire has been manifested to bring business within very narrow limits. At this season of the year it is usual to curtail transactions, with the express object of readily winding up accounts; but, on the present occasion, more than ordinary caution has been displayed in adjusting outstanding differences. This state of things naturally arises from the alarm created by the prospect of a European war—the obstinacy of the Czar, and the half measures adopted in counteracting his aggressive movements, preventing any confidence in the future. It is evident, from what is daily transpiring, that the cause of Russia has been strengthened by the absence of the necessary vigilance on the part of our own Cabinet; and that declaration of hostilities by Persia is only to be traced to the deep-laid scheme of Muscovite policy followed out by Nicholas. The return of Lord Palmerston to power has not been received in all quarters with favour, although the majority appear to believe

the event will tend to facilitate, either in one way or another, a settlement of the Eastern question.

The value of money is maintained at 5 per cent. Instances have occurred in which a fraction under the Bank's *minimum* has been accepted; but they are rare. The allowance for money deposit ranges from $4\frac{1}{2}$ to $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., according to the arrangement made—the latter rate being paid if a month's notice is agreed for. The influx of capital, through the payment of the January dividends, will probably have some effect upon the money market in the course of the next fortnight, unless other unfavourable events intervene. It is stated that the Chancellor of the Exchequer has completed his arrangements for satisfying the claims of dissentients falling due in a few days, under the South Sea Commutation Act. With regard to the accounts of the Bank of England, it is clear they present a more favourable appearance, although the large increase in Government securities would lead to the belief that the directors have again been taking Exchequer Bills freely from Mr. Gladstone. The remittances from Australia and America have not been enormous, but they are sufficient to support the stock of bullion, which exhibits a further tendency to increase.

Consols have experienced a decline of nearly 2 per cent., taking the extreme quotations. The market has been exceedingly susceptible, owing to the various causes influencing business. There has been less speculation than formerly, the jobbers anxiously awaiting the final issue of the Turco-Russian dispute.

Foreign stocks and railway shares have receded. Acting in sympathy with English securities, prices have shown weakness, but they do not close at the lowest point of the month.

The failure of Mr. W. Bernard Auderson, who has been apprehended on a charge of forgery, has created some excitement in the produce markets. Connected, in the character of agent, with the house of Van Notten and Co., he is alleged to have fraudulently issued bills of exchange for a large amount; but the assets recoverable will, it is believed, prove considerable. His creditors have taken proceedings against him in bankruptcy, for the purpose of securing the estate, and, under any circumstances, it is anticipated there will be a good dividend. Extensive speculative transactions, it is stated, have led to his present difficulties.

The amount of business transacted in Mincing-lane the last few weeks has been unimportant. Prices, however, just previous to the commencement of the Christmas holidays, took a favourable turn; and the consequence was that coffee, sugar, and tea closed with greater firmness. Rice and saltpetre have also exhibited a tendency to improvement.

ENGLISH FUNDS.

		Price on Nov. 28.	Highest.	Lowest.	Price on Dec. 27.
Consols	..	$95\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$	$96\frac{1}{2}$	$93\frac{3}{8}$ ex div.	$93\frac{3}{8}$ ex div.
Exchequer Bills' average	..	5s. to 8s. pm.	9s. pm.	2s. pm.	3s. to 6s. p.

FOREIGN STOCKS.

Brazilian	..	—	99	$97\frac{3}{4}$	99
Buenos Ayres ..	..	$65\frac{1}{2}$	67	$63\frac{1}{2}$	65
Chilian	..	$101\frac{1}{2}$	103	101	102
Dutch	..	$63\frac{1}{2}$	65	$63\frac{1}{2}$	$64\frac{1}{2}$
Mexican	..	25	$25\frac{1}{2}$	$24\frac{1}{2}$	$24\frac{1}{2}$
Peruvian, $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.	..	$71\frac{3}{4}$	72	64	69
Portuguese, 4 per cent.	..	$41\frac{1}{2}$	$43\frac{1}{2}$	$40\frac{3}{4}$	43
Russian	..	$111\frac{1}{2}$	114	111	112
Spanish	..	46	$47\frac{1}{2}$	$45\frac{1}{2}$	$46\frac{1}{2}$

RAILWAY SHARES.

	Price on Nov. 23.	Highest.	Lowest.	Price on Dec. 27.
Brighton	97 $\frac{3}{4}$	101	97	99
Caledonian	56 $\frac{3}{4}$	58	54	56
Eastern Counties	13 $\frac{1}{4}$	13 $\frac{7}{8}$	12 $\frac{7}{8}$	13 $\frac{1}{2}$
Great Northern	86 $\frac{1}{2}$	87 $\frac{1}{2}$	84 $\frac{1}{2}$	85
Great Western	83 $\frac{1}{2}$	85	81 $\frac{1}{2}$	84
London and North Western	103 $\frac{1}{4}$	105	101 $\frac{1}{2}$	104
Midland	63	65	61 $\frac{1}{2}$	63 $\frac{1}{2}$
Lancashire and Yorkshire ..	67 $\frac{1}{4}$	69	65 $\frac{3}{4}$	67 $\frac{1}{4}$
North Stafford	11 $\frac{1}{4}$	12 $\frac{1}{4}$	11 $\frac{7}{8}$	12
South Eastern	61 $\frac{1}{2}$	64 $\frac{1}{2}$	60	62
South Western	76 $\frac{1}{4}$	79	76	78 $\frac{1}{2}$
York, Newcastle and Berwick	65 $\frac{1}{4}$	67	63 $\frac{1}{2}$	64
York and North Midland ..	49 $\frac{1}{4}$	50	47 $\frac{1}{2}$	48
Northern of France	34 $\frac{3}{4}$	36 $\frac{1}{2}$	34	35
East Indian	24 $\frac{1}{8}$	24 $\frac{1}{2}$	23 $\frac{3}{4}$	24

THE STATE OF TRADE.

THE state of trade in the manufacturing districts has been languid throughout the month. The approach of Christmas has naturally interfered with the ordinary pursuits of business; and they have been further interrupted by the continuance of the wages movement. The late advices from Australia indicating some recovery in the markets, greater activity has been noticeable in some departments; but the alteration in this respect has been far from general.

THE CORN TRADE.

THE *Gazette* returns for England and Wales have been—

Week ended 1853.	Wheat. Qrs. sold.	Weekly Average. s. d.	Six Weeks' Average. s. d.	Duty. s. d.	Corresponding Six Weeks Last Year. s. d.
Nov. 26	70,629 ..	72 0 ..	71 4 ..	1 0 ..	39 7
Dec. 3	73,714 ..	72 7 ..	71 11 ..	1 0 ..	40 0
„ 10	70,353 ..	71 11 ..	72 5 ..	1 0 ..	40 6
„ 17	55,349 ..	70 9 ..	72 3 ..	1 0 ..	41 3

The importations since the harvest of 1853 have been:—

	Wheat. Qrs.	Other Grain. Qrs.	Total. Qrs.
Seventeen weeks ended 16th Nov., 1853	2,220,701	1,621,546	3,842,247
Four weeks ended 14th Dec., 1853	357,367	185,104	542,471
	2,578,068	1,806,650	4,384,718

And the *weekly average* results have been—

	Wheat.	Other Grain.	Total.
Seventeen weeks ended 16th Nov., 1853	130,000	95,000	226,000
Four weeks ended 14th Dec., 1853	89,000	46,000	135,000
Less ..	41,000	49,000	91,000

The transactions in grain have been more extended, and prices exhibit a further improvement. Purchases on foreign account have principally influenced the market, the execution of these orders creating considerable speculation. The weather, for agricultural operations, has been less unfavourable than in October and November; but complaints are, nevertheless, heard of the

slow progress effected. Supplies from America, it is anticipated, will come forward freely in the spring, although quotations in New York rule high, and show every symptom of being supported. The exports to France, it is stated, have not been completed; and, if they are to be resumed on a larger scale, the full advance has not yet been attained.

EAST INDIA REMITTANCES.

AMOUNT OF BILLS DRAWN FOR.

From Nov. 24th to Dec. 7th inclusive	Bengal.....	£33,891	1	0
	Madras	4,810	4	2
	Bombay	1,654	1	3
From Dec. 8th to Dec. 23rd inclusive	Bengal.....	£45,261	0	10
	Madras	10,199	10	3
	Bombay	821	17	6
		£96,635	15	0

BANK MOVEMENTS.

THE English, Scottish, and Australian Chartered Bank have notified the receipt of advices that eligible premises had been secured in Sydney; that merchants of standing had been appointed local directors; and that the branch would be opened for business on the 1st of October.

A BRANCH of the Agra Bank is to be established immediately in China; and Mr. Brown, the agent of the establishment in Bombay, proceeds by the steamer of the 1st proximo to open and superintend the new agency.

THE Provincial Bank of Ireland has resolved, unsolicited, to relieve the officers of its establishment from the burden of the income tax.

MONTHLY CHRONOLOGY.

Nov. 29th.—Speech of the King of Prussia at the opening of the Chambers, in which he refers to the position assumed by the Emperor of Russia.

30th.—The Emperor of Russia stated to have withdrawn his agency from the Bank of England, and exports of specie to the amount of £800,000 take place on his account.

Dec. 3rd.—In the speech delivered at the opening of the Swedish Diet, allusion is made to the war with Turkey.

6th.—Reported formation of another Congress at Vienna, to negotiate for peace.

7th.—Doubts expressed of the action of a Congress for the purpose described.

12th.—Intelligence from Sinope that the Turkish fleet in that port had been destroyed by the Russians.

15th.—Another victory announced by the Russians on the frontiers of Georgia, in which 4,000 Turks were stated to have been killed.

16th.—Resignation of Lord Palmerston intimated on the question of the new Reform bill.

21st.—Orders dispatched for the entrance of the English and French fleets into the Black Sea.

26th.—Christmas day falling on the Sunday, the following day (the 26th) was observed as a strict holiday throughout the city; the Bank, Stock Exchange, and other places of public resort, being closed.

26th.—Lord Palmerston is announced to have consented to retain his position as Home Secretary, through the mediation of mutual friends in the Cabinet.

Reviews.

The General Weekly Shipping List, and Postal and Mercantile Directory.

London: G. Blight, 168, Fenchurch-street, &c.

A VERY useful publication, which ought to be in the possession of all mercantile establishments; its accurate and well-classified information rendering it a complete guide in most matters connected with shipping and postage. Its portability and cheapness constitute it one of the most remarkable periodicals of the day.

A Table for a Decimal System of Account adapted to the Current Coin of the Realm. By Harry Borradaile. Smith, Elder, and Co., Cornhill.

Decimal Coinage Tables, for simplifying and facilitating the introduction of the proposed new Coinage. By Robert Mears. W. J. Adams, Fleet-street.

WE have placed these two publications together, because, treating of the same subject, they may both be usefully referred to. A number of pamphlets on the decimal currency have appeared, each starting some new notion, but all tending to illustrate the practicability of the system. Mr. Borradaile's plan possesses favourable features, and we cannot help thinking with him that the introduction of the florin (by name) into our coinage was an objectionable proceeding.

The Results of the Census of Great Britain in 1851. By Edward Cheshire, Fellow of the Statistical Society, &c. J. W. Parker and Son, West Strand.

MR. CHESHIRE has presented, in a neat and well-digested form, a sketch of the machinery and process employed to take the last census, and the results arrived at. The facts detailed are most interesting, and deserve an extensive circulation.

NOTICES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

We are still somewhat in arrear with our friends, and have been at the last moment compelled to hold over several interesting communications. Attention will be given in our next to the curious facts elicited with reference to foreign bills, in the case of Oppenheim, a bankrupt. The details, as they transpired before the Commissioner, appear in the present number.

S. B.—The offer is declined, with thanks. The Sketch of William Paterson, the founder of the Bank of England, as it appears in *Hogg's Instructor*, is very interesting; and, if possible, we shall, on another occasion, give some extracts from it.

A SUBSCRIBER (Liverpool)—The best work to be consulted is *Tate's Modern Cambist*.

T. G. H. (Preston)—The communication is already in type, and shall be promptly inserted.

G. B. (Glasgow)—The first establishment, it is believed, will be carried out—the charter having been obtained, and all preliminaries arranged. No definite intelligence can be ascertained with respect to the other establishment. Several correspondents have put the same question.

N. B. (Staplehurst) will perceive that a struggle is being made to get the point properly brought under consideration; and we think the issue will prove successful.

THE ENGLISH FUNDS.—Daily Prices from 26th November, 1853, to 27th December, 1853, inclusive.

	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
Bank Stock (div. 8 per Ct.) -								
3 per Ct. Recd. Anns. -	218	217	218	219	220	221	222	223
3 per Ct. Recd. Anns. -	943	944	945	946	947	948	949	950
3 per Ct. Consols Anns. -	951	952	953	954	955	956	957	958
3 per cent. Anns. 1726 -	959	960	961	962	963	964	965	966
34 per cent. Anns. -	967	968	969	970	971	972	973	974
34 per cent. Anns. -	975	976	977	978	979	980	981	982
34 per cent. Anns. -	983	984	985	986	987	988	989	990
34 per cent. Anns. -	991	992	993	994	995	996	997	998
34 per cent. Anns. -	999	1000	1001	1002	1003	1004	1005	1006
34 per cent. Anns. -	1007	1008	1009	1010	1011	1012	1013	1014
34 per cent. Anns. -	1015	1016	1017	1018	1019	1020	1021	1022
34 per cent. Anns. -	1023	1024	1025	1026	1027	1028	1029	1030
34 per cent. Anns. -	1031	1032	1033	1034	1035	1036	1037	1038
34 per cent. Anns. -	1039	1040	1041	1042	1043	1044	1045	1046
34 per cent. Anns. -	1047	1048	1049	1050	1051	1052	1053	1054
34 per cent. Anns. -	1055	1056	1057	1058	1059	1060	1061	1062
34 per cent. Anns. -	1063	1064	1065	1066	1067	1068	1069	1070
34 per cent. Anns. -	1071	1072	1073	1074	1075	1076	1077	1078
34 per cent. Anns. -	1079	1080	1081	1082	1083	1084	1085	1086
34 per cent. Anns. -	1087	1088	1089	1090	1091	1092	1093	1094
34 per cent. Anns. -	1095	1096	1097	1098	1099	1100	1101	1102
34 per cent. Anns. -	1103	1104	1105	1106	1107	1108	1109	1110
34 per cent. Anns. -	1111	1112	1113	1114	1115	1116	1117	1118
34 per cent. Anns. -	1119	1120	1121	1122	1123	1124	1125	1126
34 per cent. Anns. -	1127	1128	1129	1130	1131	1132	1133	1134
34 per cent. Anns. -	1135	1136	1137	1138	1139	1140	1141	1142
34 per cent. Anns. -	1143	1144	1145	1146	1147	1148	1149	1150
34 per cent. Anns. -	1151	1152	1153	1154	1155	1156	1157	1158
34 per cent. Anns. -	1159	1160	1161	1162	1163	1164	1165	1166
34 per cent. Anns. -	1167	1168	1169	1170	1171	1172	1173	1174
34 per cent. Anns. -	1175	1176	1177	1178	1179	1180	1181	1182
34 per cent. Anns. -	1183	1184	1185	1186	1187	1188	1189	1190
34 per cent. Anns. -	1191	1192	1193	1194	1195	1196	1197	1198
34 per cent. Anns. -	1199	1200	1201	1202	1203	1204	1205	1206
34 per cent. Anns. -	1207	1208	1209	1210	1211	1212	1213	1214
34 per cent. Anns. -	1215	1216	1217	1218	1219	1220	1221	1222
34 per cent. Anns. -	1223	1224	1225	1226	1227	1228	1229	1230
34 per cent. Anns. -	1231	1232	1233	1234	1235	1236	1237	1238
34 per cent. Anns. -	1239	1240	1241	1242	1243	1244	1245	1246
34 per cent. Anns. -	1247	1248	1249	1250	1251	1252	1253	1254
34 per cent. Anns. -	1255	1256	1257	1258	1259	1260	1261	1262
34 per cent. Anns. -	1263	1264	1265	1266	1267	1268	1269	1270
34 per cent. Anns. -	1271	1272	1273	1274	1275	1276	1277	1278
34 per cent. Anns. -	1279	1280	1281	1282	1283	1284	1285	1286
34 per cent. Anns. -	1287	1288	1289	1290	1291	1292	1293	1294
34 per cent. Anns. -	1295	1296	1297	1298	1299	1300	1301	1302
34 per cent. Anns. -	1303	1304	1305	1306	1307	1308	1309	1310
34 per cent. Anns. -	1311	1312	1313	1314	1315	1316	1317	1318
34 per cent. Anns. -	1319	1320	1321	1322	1323	1324	1325	1326
34 per cent. Anns. -	1327	1328	1329	1330	1331	1332	1333	1334
34 per cent. Anns. -	1335	1336	1337	1338	1339	1340	1341	1342
34 per cent. Anns. -	1343	1344	1345	1346	1347	1348	1349	1350
34 per cent. Anns. -	1351	1352	1353	1354	1355	1356	1357	1358
34 per cent. Anns. -	1359	1360	1361	1362	1363	1364	1365	1366
34 per cent. Anns. -	1367	1368	1369	1370	1371	1372	1373	1374
34 per cent. Anns. -	1375	1376	1377	1378	1379	1380	1381	1382
34 per cent. Anns. -	1383	1384	1385	1386	1387	1388	1389	1390
34 per cent. Anns. -	1391	1392	1393	1394	1395	1396	1397	1398
34 per cent. Anns. -	1399	1400	1401	1402	1403	1404	1405	1406
34 per cent. Anns. -	1407	1408	1409	1410	1411	1412	1413	1414
34 per cent. Anns. -	1415	1416	1417	1418	1419	1420	1421	1422
34 per cent. Anns. -	1423	1424	1425	1426	1427	1428	1429	1430
34 per cent. Anns. -	1431	1432	1433	1434	1435	1436	1437	1438
34 per cent. Anns. -	1439	1440	1441	1442	1443	1444	1445	1446
34 per cent. Anns. -	1447	1448	1449	1450	1451	1452	1453	1454
34 per cent. Anns. -	1455	1456	1457	1458	1459	1460	1461	1462
34 per cent. Anns. -	1463	1464	1465	1466	1467	1468	1469	1470
34 per cent. Anns. -	1471	1472	1473	1474	1475	1476	1477	1478
34 per cent. Anns. -	1479	1480	1481	1482	1483	1484	1485	1486
34 per cent. Anns. -	1487	1488	1489	1490	1491	1492	1493	1494
34 per cent. Anns. -	1495	1496	1497	1498	1499	1500	1501	1502
34 per cent. Anns. -	1503	1504	1505	1506	1507	1508	1509	1510
34 per cent. Anns. -	1511	1512	1513	1514	1515	1516	1517	1518
34 per cent. Anns. -	1519	1520	1521	1522	1523	1524	1525	1526
34 per cent. Anns. -	1527	1528	1529	1530	1531	1532	1533	1534
34 per cent. Anns. -	1535	1536	1537	1538	1539	1540	1541	1542
34 per cent. Anns. -	1543	1544	1545	1546	1547	1548	1549	1550
34 per cent. Anns. -	1551	1552	1553	1554	1555	1556	1557	1558
34 per cent. Anns. -	1559	1560	1561	1562	1563	1564	1565	1566
34 per cent. Anns. -	1567	1568	1569	1570	1571	1572	1573	1574
34 per cent. Anns. -	1575	1576	1577	1578	1579	1580	1581	1582
34 per cent. Anns. -	1583	1584	1585	1586	1587	1588	1589	1590
34 per cent. Anns. -	1591	1592	1593	1594	1595	1596	1597	1598
34 per cent. Anns. -	1599	1600	1601	1602	1603	1604	1605	1606
34 per cent. Anns. -	1607	1608	1609	1610	1611	1612	1613	1614
34 per cent. Anns. -	1615	1616	1617	1618	1619	1620	1621	1622
34 per cent. Anns. -	1623	1624	1625	1626	1627	1628	1629	1630
34 per cent. Anns. -	1631	1632	1633	1634	1635	1636	1637	1638
34 per cent. Anns. -	1639	1640	1641	1642	1643	1644	1645	1646
34 per cent. Anns. -	1647	1648	1649	1650	1651	1652	1653	1654
34 per cent. Anns. -	1655	1656	1657	1658	1659	1660	1661	1662
34 per cent. Anns. -	1663	1664	1665	1666	1667	1668	1669	1670
34 per cent. Anns. -	1671	1672	1673	1674	1675	1676	1677	1678
34 per cent. Anns. -	1679	1680	1681	1682	1683	1684	1685	1686
34 per cent. Anns. -	1687	1688	1689	1690	1691	1692	1693	1694
34 per cent. Anns. -	1695	1696	1697	1698	1699	1700	1701	1702
34 per cent. Anns. -	1703	1704	1705	1706	1707	1708	1709	1710
34 per cent. Anns. -	1711	1712	1713	1714	1715	1716	1717	1718
34 per cent. Anns. -	1719	1720	1721	1722	1723	1724	1725	1726
34 per cent. Anns. -	1727	1728	1729	1730	1731	1732	1733	1734
34 per cent. Anns. -	1735	1736	1737	1738	1739	1740	1741	1742
34 per cent. Anns. -	1743	1744	1745	1746	1747	1748	1749	1750
34 per cent. Anns. -	1751	1752	1753	1754	1755	1756	1757	1758
34 per cent. Anns. -	1759	1760	1761	1762	1763	1764	1765	1766
34 per cent. Anns. -	1767	1768	1769	1770	1771	1772	1773	1774
34 per cent. Anns. -	1775	1776	1777	1778	1779	1780	1781	1782
34 per cent. Anns. -	1783	1784	1785	1786	1787	1788	1789	1790
34 per cent. Anns. -	1791	1792	1793	1794	1795	1796	1797	1798
34 per cent. Anns. -	1799	1800	1801	1802	1803	1804	1805	1806
34 per cent. Anns. -	1807	1808	1809	1810	1811	1812	1813	1814
34 per cent. Anns. -	1815	1816	1817	1818	1819	1820	1821	1822
34 per cent. Anns. -	1823	1824	1825	1826	1827	1828	1829	1830
34 per cent. Anns. -	1831	1832	1833	1834	1835	1836	1837	1838
34 per cent. Anns. -	1839	1840	1841	1842	1843	1844	1845	1846
34 per cent. Anns. -	1847	1848	1849	1850	1851	1852	1853	1854
34 per cent. Anns. -	1855	1856	1857	1858	1859	1860	1861	1862
34 per cent. Anns. -	1863	1864	1865	1866	1867	1868	1869	1870
34 per cent. Anns. -	1871	1872	1873	1874	1875	1876	1877	1878
34 per cent. Anns. -	1879	1880	1881	1882	1883	1884	1885	1886
34 per cent. Anns. -	1887	1888	1889	1890	1891	1892	1893	1894
34 per cent. Anns. -	1895	1896	1897	1898	1899	1900	1901	1902
34 per cent. Anns. -	1903	1904	1905	1906	1907	1908	1909	1910
34 per cent. Anns. -	1911	1912	1913	1914	1915	1916	1917	1918
34 per cent. Anns. -	1919	1920	1921	1922	1923	1924	1925	1926
34 per cent. Anns. -	1927	1928	1929	1930	1931	1932	1933	1934
34 per cent. Anns. -	1935	1936	1937	1938	1939	1940	1941	1942
34 per cent. Anns. -	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950
34 per cent. Anns. -	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958
34 per cent. Anns. -	1959	1960	1961	1962	1963	1964	1965	1966
34 per cent. Anns. -	1967	1968	1969	1970	1971	1972	1973	1974
34 per cent. Anns. -	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982
34 per cent. Anns. -	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990
34 per cent. Anns. -	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998
34 per cent. Anns. -	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
34 per cent. Anns. -	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
34 per cent. Anns. -	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
34 per cent. Anns. -	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2

RAILWAY SHARES.

COMPANY.	Paid up	Prices	
		Nov. 26	Dec. 26
Caledonian	£ 100	37½	55½
Eastern Counties ..	.. 20	13½	13½
Great Northern ..	.. 100	87	85
Great Western ..	.. 100	84	84
London and Blackwall	.. 100	84	84
London and Brighton	.. 100	97½	99½
———— North-West.	100	103½	104½
———— South-West.	100	76½	78½
———— Midland	.. 100	64½	65½
North British	.. 100	31½	31
South-Eastern	.. 100	62½	62
York, Newcastle, & Berwick	100	66	64
York & North Midland	.. 1100	49½	43

The closing prices of the day are quoted.

FOREIGN STOCKS (28th December.)

Brazilian Bonds, 5 per Cent.	99
Chilian Bonds, 6 per Cent.	102
—	103
Danish 5 per Cent.	—
—	244
Mexican 3 per Cent.	69
—	43
Portuguese Bonds, 4 per Cent.	43
—	112
—	98
—	461
Spanish Bonds 3 per Cents,	—
—	224
—	101
—	94
—	95
—	27
—	375.5c.

JOINT-STOCK BANKS.

	£40 sh.	£40	0 pd.	£79
Australasia	-	-	-	63
British North American	-	-	-	50
Commercial of London	-	-	-	50
Colonial	-	-	-	17
London and Westminster	-	-	-	35
London Joint Stock	-	-	-	27
Oriental Bank	-	-	-	25
Provincial of Ireland	-	-	-	49
Ditto, New	-	-	-	50
National of Ireland	-	-	-	18
National Provincial of England	-	-	-	24
Ditto, New	-	-	-	51
South Australian	-	-	-	47
Union of Australia	-	-	-	25
Union of London	-	-	-	75
London and County	-	-	-	21
London Chartered of Australia	-	-	-	30
English, Scottish, and Australian Chartered	-	-	-	13
Bank of India, China, and Australia	-	-	-	9
New South Wales	-	-	-	1
	-	-	-	41

Bank of England Weekly Returns.

Account, pursuant to the Act 7th and 8th of Victoria, cap. 32, for the Weeks ending as follows.

ISSUE DEPARTMENT.

	1853. Nov. 19th.	1853 Nov. 26th.	1853. Dec. 3rd.	1853. Dec. 10th.	1853. Dec. 17th.
	£	£	£	£	£
Notes issued.....	29,150,715	28,394,025	28,406,590	28,620,635	28,729,730
Government debt.....	11,015,100	11,015,100	11,015,100	11,015,100	11,015,100
Other securities	2,984,900	2,984,900	2,984,900	2,984,900	2,984,900
Gold coin and bullion	15,150,715	14,394,025	14,406,590	14,620,635	14,729,730
Silver bullion	—	—	—	—	—
	29,150,715	28,394,025	28,406,590	28,620,635	28,729,730

BANKING DEPARTMENT.

	1853. Nov. 19th.	1853 Nov. 26th.	1853. Dec. 3rd.	1853. Dec. 10th.	1853. Dec. 17th.
	£	£	£	£	£
Proprietors' capital.....	14,553,000	14,553,000	14,553,000	14,553,000	14,553,000
Reserve	3,217,322	3,184,137	3,175,626	3,181,817	3,189,090
Public deposits (including Ex- chequer, Savings' Banks, Com- missioners of National Debt, and Dividend Accounts)	6,034,154	7,534,179	7,659,924	10,027,166	10,492,686
Other deposits	11,632,208	11,012,432	11,480,162	10,910,077	10,699,684
Seven day and other bills	1,259,013	1,267,037	1,226,913	1,192,741	1,183,916
	36,695,697	37,550,785	38,095,624	39,864,801	40,118,376
Government securities (including Dead Weight Annuity)	12,477,425	13,489,037	13,622,039	15,043,730	15,043,730
Other securities	15,989,650	16,315,862	16,586,813	16,525,237	16,237,015
Notes	7,559,980	7,049,825	7,200,790	7,575,175	8,134,105
Gold and silver coin	668,642	696,061	685,977	720,659	713,526
	36,695,697	37,550,785	38,095,624	39,864,801	40,118,376

The Exchanges.

	Nov. 25th.	Dec. 2nd.	Dec. 9th.	Dec. 16th.	Dec. 23rd.
Amsterdam, short ..	11 14½	11 14½	11 14½	11 14½	11 14½
Ditto 3 months..	11 16	11 16½	11 15½	11 16	11 16
Rotterdam, ditto ..	11 16½	11 16½	11 16	11 16	11 16½
Antwerp, ditto ..	25 20	25 22½	25 17½	25 20	25 20
Brussels, ditto	25 20	25 22½	25 17½	25 20	25 20
Hamburg, ditto.....	13 5	13 6	13 5½	13 5½	13 5
Paris, short	25 2½	25 5	25 5	25 7½	25 2½
Paris, 3 months	25 27½	25 30	25 30	25 32½	25 30
Marseilles, ditto	25 30	25 30	25 32½	25 35	25 32½
Frankfort, ditto	119	119	119	118½	118½
Vienna, ditto.....	11 38	11 40	11 36	11 35	11 40
Trieste, ditto.....	11 44	11 42	11 40	11 38	11 44
Petersburgh, ditto ..	38½	38	38	37½	37½
Madrid, ditto	50½	50	50½	50½	50½
Cadiz, ditto	50½	50½	50½	50½	50½
Leghorn, ditto	30 10	30 20	30 25	30 30	30 27½
Genoa, ditto	25 47½	25 52½	25 60	25 62½	25 55
Naples, ditto.....	43½	42½	42½	42½	42½
Palermo, ditto	127½	126½	126½	126½	126½
Messina, ditto	127½	126½	126½	126½	126½
Lisbon, 60 days' date	52½	52½	53	53½	53
Oporto, ditto	53½	53½	53½	53½	53½
Rio Janeiro, ditto ..	—	—	—	—	—

PRICES OF BULLION.

	Per Ounce.	Per Ounce.	Per Ounce.	Per Ounce.	Per Ounce.
Foreign Gold in Bars, (Standard).....	£3 17 9	£3 17 9	£3 17 9	£3 17 9	£3 17 9
New Dollars	0 5 1	0 5 1	0 5 1	0 5 0½	0 5 0½
Silver in Bars (Stand.)	0 5 2½	0 5 1½	—	0 5 1½	0 5 1½

Bankers' Weekly Circulation Returns.

Pursuant to the Act 7 & 8 Victoria, c. 32; extracted from the LONDON GAZETTES.

PRIVATE BANKS.

NAME OF BANK.	Authorised Issue.	AVERAGE AMOUNT.			
		Nov. 5.	Nov. 12.	Nov. 19.	Nov. 26.
		£	£	£	£
1 Andover Bank	17,751	13,796	13,174	14,334	13,212
2 Ashford Bank	11,849	12,333	12,098	11,985	10,759
3 Aylsham Bank	5,854	4,588	4,527	4,510	4,449
4 Aylesbury Old Bank	48,461	33,684	31,346	30,393	30,880
5 Baldock and Biggleswade Bank ...	37,223	26,894	26,927	26,458	26,499
6 Barnstaple Bank	17,182	12,549	11,390	10,810	9,756
7 Basingstoke and Odiham Bank ...	24,730	20,066	19,141	18,048	17,261
8 Bedford Bank	34,218	33,176	34,075	33,511	33,492
9 Bewdley Bank	18,597	12,651	12,074	11,458	11,371
10 Bicester and Oxfordshire Bank ...	27,090	17,175	16,331	16,387	15,966
11 Birmingham Bank—Attwoods & Co. ...	23,695	23,930	23,079	24,396	23,340
12 Birmingham and Warwickshire Bk. ...	18,132	11,555	11,520	11,388	11,016
13 Blandford Bank	9,723	6,611	7,187	7,529	7,614
14 Boston Bank—Garfit and Co.	75,069	76,960	76,945	69,341	71,499
15 Boston Bank—Gee and Co.	15,161	14,080	13,268	14,007	13,811
16 Bridgewater Bank	10,028	5,678	5,997	6,138	5,543
17 Bristol Bank	48,277	37,178	37,015	35,927	37,860
18 Broseley and Bridgeorth Bank ...	26,717	17,741	16,699	16,175	17,249
19 Buckingham Bank	29,557	22,171	21,473	19,787	20,470
20 Bury and Suffolk Bank	82,362	80,931	75,114	72,657	72,702
21 Banbury Bank	43,457	36,972	36,492	35,886	36,118
22 Banbury Old Bank	55,153	27,630	27,144	27,489	27,258
23 Bath City Bank	4,572	3,519	3,518	3,687	3,211
24 Bedfordshire Leighton Buzzard Bk. ...	36,829	36,182	34,125	33,954	34,054
25 Birmingham Bk.—Taylor & Lloyds ...	38,816	32,263	33,486	32,363	31,934
26 Bradford Old Bank	12,676	12,256	12,361	12,075	12,284
27 Brecon Old Bank	68,271	69,105	67,977	67,555	66,840
28 Brighton Union Bank	33,794	25,368	24,862	23,821	23,226
29 Burlington and Driffield Bank	12,745	12,018	11,505	11,838	12,707
30 Bury St. Edmund's Bank	3,201	2,953	2,735	2,726	2,290
31 Cambridge Bk.—Mortlock & Co. ...	25,744	16,897	17,423	17,839	17,591
32 Cambridge and Cambridgeshire Bk. ...	49,916	47,148	46,662	44,835	43,316
33 Canterbury Bank	33,671	29,575	30,720	31,773	31,681
34 Carmarthen Bank	23,597	23,658	23,386	23,490	22,491
35 Chertsey Bank	3,436	3,900	3,772	3,054	2,572
36 Colchester Bank	25,082	17,546	16,866	16,463	16,300
37 Colchester and Essex Bank	48,704	33,183	32,635	32,074	31,740
38 Cornish Bank—Tweedy & Co. ...	49,869	46,722	49,044	49,415	49,393
39 Coventry Bank	12,045	6,345	6,622	6,289	6,034
40 City Bank, Exeter	21,527	20,575	20,743	20,186	19,146
41 Craven Bank—Alcocks & Co. ...	77,154	75,208	75,113	75,685	75,776
42 Cardiff Bank	7,001	6,780	7,170	6,939	6,799
43 Chepstow Old Bank	9,387	9,872	9,797	9,440	8,007
44 Derby Bank—Messrs. Evans	13,332	11,373	11,134	10,743	11,053
45 Derby Bank—Smith and Co.	41,304	42,945	42,822	37,508	37,033
46 Derby Old Bank	27,237	27,511	26,559	26,111	25,962
47 Devizes and Wiltshire Bank	20,674	10,548	10,070	9,158	8,860
48 Diss Bank	10,657	10,440	10,250	10,424	10,158
49 Doncaster Bank and Retford Bank ...	77,400	75,440	75,063	73,919	75,583
50 Darlington Bank	86,218	85,565	84,799	86,465	84,665

WEEKLY RETURNS OF BANKS OF ISSUE.

NAME OF BANK.	Authorised Issue.	AVERAGE AMOUNT.			
		Nov. 5.	Nov. 12.	Nov. 19.	Nov. 26.
	£	£	£	£	£
51 Devonport Bank	10,664	10,086	9,480	9,683	9,730
52 Dorchester Old Bank	48,807	44,695	44,877	46,057	44,933
53 East Cornwall Bk.—Robins & Co.	112,280	108,371	106,635	106,902	108,036
54 East Riding Bank—Bower & Co.	53,392	52,400	52,959	51,809	53,293
55 Essex Bk. & Bishops Stortford Bk.	69,637	45,759	43,768	43,127	41,642
56 Exeter Bank	37,894	28,761	28,387	27,486	26,995
57 Fakenham Bank	24,293	22,253	21,699	22,152	23,198
58 Faringdon Bk. & Bk. of Wantage	8,977	6,842	6,179	6,499	6,570
59 Farnham Bank	14,202	13,890	13,030	13,975	13,856
60 Faversham Bank	6,681	5,753	5,573	5,715	5,756
61 Godalming Bank	6,322	5,567	5,447	5,510	5,650
62 Guildford Bank	14,524	6,680	7,126	7,090	6,785
63 Grantham Bank—Hardy and Co.	30,372	29,738	27,938	28,125	28,867
64 Hastings Old Bank	38,038	36,099	38,395	38,188	36,244
65 Hereford City and County Bank	22,364	22,594	21,665	20,623	19,200
66 Hertford and Ware Bank	23,635	19,465	19,385	19,458	21,100
67 Hull & Kingston-upon-Hull Bank	19,979	18,957	19,338	19,328	19,938
68 Huntingdon Town & County Bank	56,591	50,315	49,948	50,024	49,805
69 Harwich Bank	5,778	5,840	5,804	5,331	5,480
70 Hemel Hempstead Bank	23,842	22,450	22,167	22,728	22,909
71 Hertfordshire, Hitchin Bank	38,764	36,807	35,833	34,928	35,054
72 Hereford, Ross, & Archenfield Bk.	27,625	22,961	21,940	21,231	21,570
73 Ipswich Bank	21,901	21,412	20,705	21,045	20,734
74 Ipswich & Needham Market Bank	80,699	65,669	65,137	64,106	63,215
75 Kentish Bank—Mercer & Co.	19,895	22,942	20,124	18,195	15,263
76 Kington and Radnorshire Bank	26,050	26,019	26,011	26,013	26,020
77 Knighton Bank	9,090	9,051	9,092	9,109	9,050
78 Knaresborough Old Bank	21,825	20,170	20,606	21,633	22,465
79 Kendal Bank	44,663	43,726	45,489	44,387	43,348
80 Kettering Bank	9,192	9,665	9,876	8,741	8,431
81 Lane End Staffordshire Bank	5,624	5,124	5,169	5,221	4,957
82 Leeds Bank	53,357	53,306	52,962	53,053	52,725
83 Leeds Union Bank	37,459	37,542	37,556	37,086	36,800
84 Leicester Bank	32,322	28,864	28,579	29,617	29,630
85 Lewes Old Bank	44,836	37,685	37,659	37,559	35,812
86 Lichfield Bank	22,786	12,884	11,165	10,440	10,003
87 Lincoln Bank	100,342	93,885	95,210	95,019	95,619
88 Llandoverly Bank & Llandilo Bank	32,945	27,673	27,860	27,629	26,053
89 Loughborough Bank	7,359	6,782	7,366	7,595	7,418
90 Lymington Bank	5,038	4,099	4,073	3,841	3,653
91 Lynn Regis and Lincolnshire Bank	42,817	38,373	37,910	37,820	36,716
92 Lynn Regis and Norfolk Bank	13,917	13,243	13,167	13,376	12,500
93 Macclesfield Bank	15,760	14,686	14,731	14,555	15,335
94 Manningtree Bank	7,692	2,368	2,815	2,847	2,917
95 Merionethshire Bank	10,906	9,737	9,653	9,048	8,783
96 Miners' Bank	18,688	18,212	17,925	18,545	18,073
97 Monmouthshire Agricultural and Commercial Bank	29,335	28,306	29,256	28,025	28,044
98 Monmouth Old Bank	16,385	15,175	15,372	15,540	15,951
99 Newark Bank	28,788	26,825	26,956	26,974	26,725
100 Newark and Sleaford Bank	51,615	51,999	50,215	50,349	50,575
101 Newbury Bank	36,787	23,164	23,557	21,887	22,077
102 Newmarket Bank	23,098	23,524	21,823	20,053	19,364
103 Norwich Crown Bank and Norfolk and Suffolk Bank	49,671	47,919	46,746	47,600	47,811
104 Norwich and Norfolk Bank	75,372	69,773	70,745	70,760	70,500
105 Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Bank	10,866	10,638	10,732	10,674	10,253

WEEKLY RETURNS OF BANKS OF ISSUE.

NAME OF BANK.	Authorised Issue.	AVERAGE AMOUNT.			
		Nov. 5.	Nov. 12.	Nov. 19.	Nov. 26.
	£	£	£	£	£
106 Nuneaton Bank	5,898	3,408	3,105	2,804	2,790
107 Naval Bank, Plymouth	27,321	25,451	24,293	24,129	24,145
108 New Sarum Bk.—Everett & Smith	15,659	13,709	13,215	12,022	11,361
109 Nottingham Bank	31,047	30,258	30,920	31,260	28,436
110 Oswestry Bank	18,471	9,224	9,669	10,072	11,162
111 Oxford Old Bank	34,391	35,060	31,600	31,025	31,563
112 Old Bank, Tonbridge	13,183	12,868	12,310	11,829	11,054
113 Oxfordshire Witney Bank	11,852	9,147	9,133	8,913	9,065
114 Pease's Old Bank, Hull	48,807	46,778	47,584	47,373	48,191
115 Penzance Bank	11,405	10,435	10,810	10,636	10,456
116 Peterborough Bank—Yorke & Co.	12,545	9,389	10,227	9,162	9,040
117 Pembrokeshire Bank	12,910	12,175	12,701	12,600	12,464
118 Reading Bank—Simmonds & Co.	37,519	27,621	27,180	27,350	28,715
119 Reading Bk.—Stephens & Blandy	43,271	31,084	30,010	30,265	29,426
120 Richmond Bank, Richmond	6,889	7,215	6,855	6,710	6,160
121 Rochdale Bank	5,590	5,265	4,953	4,620	4,613
122 Rochester, Chatham, & Strood Bk.	10,480	7,451	7,328	7,306	7,719
123 Royston Bank	16,393	12,732	12,652	13,252	12,880
124 Rugby Bank	17,250	11,820	11,532	10,584	10,727
125 Rye Bank	29,864	18,445	19,136	18,870	18,600
126 Ross Old Bank, Herefordshire ...	4,420	4,204	3,746	4,284	4,386
127 Saffron Walden & North Essex Bk.	47,646	31,117	31,216	32,182	32,936
128 Salop Bank	22,338	16,047	16,015	15,487	15,026
129 Scarborough Old Bank	24,813	24,605	24,437	24,584	24,626
130 Shrewsbury Old Bank	43,191	41,606	43,956	43,393	41,017
131 Sittingbourne and Milton Bank...	4,789	3,451	3,082	3,304	3,122
132 Southampton Town & County Bk.	18,589	15,052	14,654	13,847	12,905
133 Southwell Bank	14,744	13,826	13,431	13,404	13,424
134 Southampton and Hampshire Bk.	6,770	3,781	3,855	3,757	3,719
135 Stone Bank	9,154	390	390	385	385
136 Stafford Old Bank	14,166	12,068	11,570	11,125	10,559
137 Stamford and Rutland Bank	31,858	31,413	32,709	32,471	29,829
138 Shrewsbury and Welsh Pool Bank	25,336	23,305	22,725	24,730	25,507
139 Taunton Bank	29,799	29,937	28,711	27,782	25,568
140 Tavistock Bank	13,421	10,815	12,479	11,806	11,027
141 Thornbury Bank	10,026	6,385	6,537	6,485	6,760
142 Tiverton and Devonshire Bank ...	13,470	10,535	9,620	9,129	8,820
143 Thrapstone and Kettering Bank..	11,559	11,275	10,861	11,429	11,587
144 Tring Bank and Chesham Bank..	13,531	12,806	12,475	12,186	12,577
145 Towcester Old Bank	10,801	9,099	8,532	7,855	7,791
146 Town and County of Poole Bk. and Ringwood and Poole Bk.	11,856	10,358	10,491	10,646	10,436
147 Union Bank, Cornwall	17,003	11,718	12,060	10,953	10,566
148 Uxbridge Old Bank	25,136	15,111	14,417	14,819	14,035
149 Wallingford Bank	17,064	8,378	8,392	8,203	8,263
150 Warwick and Warwickshire Bank	30,504	23,352	22,632	23,217	23,132
151 Wellington Bank, Somerset	6,528	5,057	4,393	4,028	3,895
152 West Riding Bank	46,158	44,823	45,515	44,877	44,823
153 Whithy Old Bank	14,258	14,283	13,868	13,792	14,350
154 Winchester, Alresford & Alton Bk.	25,892	23,912	23,080	21,960	20,821
155 Winchester and Hampshire Bank	6,737	6,061	5,827	5,128	4,729
156 Weymouth Old Bank	16,461	16,669	15,762	15,680	14,865
157 Wirksworth and Derbyshire Bk.	37,602	37,454	35,654	35,346	35,006
158 Wisbeach and Lincolnshire Bank	59,713	54,760	54,790	52,833	52,255
159 Wiveliscombe Bank	7,602	7,336	7,212	6,759	5,979
160 Wolverhampton Bk.—Goodricke and Co.	14,180	13,701	13,518	13,128	13,555
161 Worcester Bank	15,463	9,491	9,240	8,395	8,386

WEEKLY RETURNS OF BANKS OF ISSUE.

NAME OF BANK.	Authorized Issue.	AVERAGE AMOUNT.			
		Nov. 5.	Nov. 12.	Nov. 19.	Nov. 26.
	£	£	£	£	£
162 Worcester Old Bank	87,448	82,516	78,502	73,651	71,763
163 Worcestershire Bank	14,309	9,859	9,461	9,229	8,996
164 Wolverhampton Bank—R. & W. Fryer	11,867	11,569	11,817	11,793	10,898
165 Yarmouth and Suffolk Bank	53,060	44,841	43,308	42,945	43,015
166 Yarmouth, Norfolk, & Suffolk Bk.	13,229	12,050	11,842	11,470	11,838
167 York Bank	46,387	46,082	45,752	45,652	45,777

JOINT STOCK BANKS.

1 Bank of Westmoreland.....	12,225	9,375	9,972	10,561	10,064
2 Barnsley Banking Company	9,563	9,175	9,050	9,270	9,151
3 Bradford Banking Company	49,292	48,429	49,136	49,932	49,080
4 Bilston District Banking Company	9,418	7,985	9,242	9,349	8,850
5 Bank of Whitehaven	32,681	32,230	31,426	31,808	30,916
6 Bradford Commercial Banking Co.	20,084	19,730	19,893	19,938	19,040
7 Barton, Uttoxeter, and Staffordshire Union Bank	60,701	58,700	57,550	56,142	55,682
8 Chesterfield & N. Derbysh. Bk. Co.	10,421	10,190	10,156	9,780	9,965
9 Cumberland Union Banking Co....	35,395	34,205	34,723	35,325	33,945
10 Cheltenham & Glo'stershire Bk. Co.	12,786	9,570	9,213	9,123	9,127
11 Coventry and Warwickshire Bk. Co.	28,734	23,797	22,620	22,530	21,905
12 Coventry Union Banking Company	16,251	14,170	14,035	13,724	13,120
13 County of Gloucester Banking Co.	144,352	109,388	109,060	107,965	105,365
14 Carlisle & Cumberland Banking Co.	25,610	24,326	25,780	26,517	25,592
15 Carlisle City and District Bank ...	19,972	19,281	21,057	20,484	18,802
16 Dudley & West Bromwich Bk. Co.	37,696	35,537	38,395	37,039	35,985
17 Derby and Derbyshire Banking Co.	20,093	20,530	20,255	18,966	19,543
18 Darlington Dist. Joint Stock Bk. Co.	26,134	24,255	24,579	24,446	24,508
19 East of England Bank	25,025	23,181	24,957	23,616	26,126
20 Gloucestershire Banking Company	155,920	149,716	148,473	148,555	149,435
21 Halifax Joint Stock Bank.....	18,534	18,611	18,773	17,717	18,202
22 Huddersfield Banking Company...	37,354	35,463	35,830	36,013	34,703
23 Hull Banking Company	29,333	26,369	27,835	26,935	27,699
24 Halifax Commercial Banking Co.	13,733	13,799	13,180	12,961	13,125
25 Halifax & Huddersfield Union Bk.	44,137	41,246	42,276	42,819	43,000
26 Helston Banking Company	1,503	1,528	1,534	1,297	1,299
27 Herefordshire Banking Company..	25,047	25,167	25,843	22,790	21,196
28 Knaresborough and Claro Bk. Co.	28,059	27,742	28,266	28,138	27,624
29 Kingsbridge Joint Stock Bank	3,952	4,058	3,828	3,951	3,947
30 Lancaster Banking Company	64,311	61,293	63,755	62,727	61,988
31 Leeds Banking Company	23,076	25,315	24,458	22,084	20,093
32 Leicestershire Banking Company...	86,060	81,009	79,451	80,195	78,527
33 Lincoln and Lindsey Banking Co.	51,620	45,835	47,963	49,573	53,270
34 Leamington Priors and Warwick- shire Bank	13,875	10,203	10,442	9,925	10,174
35 Ludlow and Tenbury Bank	10,215	9,837	10,268	10,343	9,903

WEEKLY RETURNS OF BANKS OF ISSUE.

NAME OF BANK.	Authorised Issue.	AVERAGE AMOUNT.			
		Nov. 5.	Nov. 12.	Nov. 19.	Nov. 26.
	£	£	£	£	£
36 Moore & Robinson's Notts. Bank...	35,813	36,629	35,713	33,603	33,568
37 Nottingham and Notts. Banking Co.	29,477	27,705	28,371	28,629	29,105
38 National Provincial Bk. of England	442,371	413,984	418,866	425,490	424,597
39 North Wilt's Banking Company ...	63,939	52,830	51,354	52,580	53,082
40 Northamptonshire Union Bank ...	84,356	78,864	78,418	75,348	75,174
41 Northamptonshire Banking Co. ...	26,401	27,135	26,535	25,310	25,515
42 North and South Wales Bank	63,951	49,707	48,688	49,660	49,073
43 Pare's Leicestershire Banking Co...	59,300	51,876	51,192	52,640	52,714
44 Saddleworth Banking Company ...	8,122	2,287	2,363	2,465	2,585
45 Sheffield Banking Company.....	35,843	32,992	35,853	35,049	36,545
46 Stamford, Spalding & Boston Bk. Co.	55,721	52,680	55,192	53,808	51,315
47 Stuckey's Banking Company	356,976	356,191	358,459	351,734	341,395
48 Shropshire Banking Company.....	47,951	49,646	46,564	46,541	48,234
49 Stourbridge and Kidderminster Bk.	56,830	55,906	57,025	57,063	56,629
50 Sheffield and Hallamshire Bank ...	23,524	21,892	21,776	23,743	24,065
51 Sheffield & Rotherham Jt. Stock Bk.	52,496	52,708	51,565	51,031	51,343
52 Swaledale and Wensleydale Bank..	54,372	52,819	53,157	52,140	52,622
53 Storey and Thomas's Bank	9,714	9,236	9,737	9,974	9,780
54 Wolverhampton & Staffordsh. Bk..	35,378	34,438	35,401	35,702	35,886
55 Wakefield and Barnsley Union Bk.	14,604	13,521	13,465	13,498	13,750
56 Whitehaven Joint Stock Bank ...	31,916	31,577	30,242	30,633	29,955
57 Warwick and Leamington Bk. Co.	37,124	28,879	30,409	28,923	28,700
58 West of England and South Wales District Bank	83,535	81,883	82,874	79,780	75,957
59 Wilts & Dorset Banking Company	76,162	70,980	72,346	73,855	71,420
60 West Riding Union Banking Co...	34,029	32,398	32,232	32,833	32,591
61 Whitchurch and Ellesmere Bk. Co.	7,475	4,224	3,821	3,661	4,241
62 Worcester City and County Bk. Co.	6,848	5,736	5,902	5,340	5,026
63 York Union Banking Company ...	71,240	70,033	68,373	69,176	72,885
64 York City and County Banking Co.	94,695	85,829	88,245	90,835	94,716
65 Yorkshire Banking Company	122,532	114,005	125,102	125,885	118,145

Summary of the above Returns.

	Fixed Issues. £	Nov. 5. £	Nov. 12. £	Nov. 19. £	Nov. 26. £
167 Private Banks	4,616,609	4,042,751	3,991,797	3,937,665	3,899,763
65 Joint Stock Banks ..	3,325,857	3,109,935	3,142,514	3,129,467	3,101,563
232 Totals.....	7,942,466	7,152,686	7,134,311	7,067,132	7,001,326

Average Weekly Circulation of these Banks for the month ending November 26th:—

Private Banks	£3,967,994
Joint Stock Banks	3,120,870

Average Weekly Circulation of Private and Joint Stock Banks
ending as above £7,088,864

On a comparison of the above with the Returns for the Month ending 29th October last,
it shows—

A decrease in the Notes of Private Banks, of	£100,293
A decrease in the Notes of Joint Stock Banks, of	42,064

Total decrease on the Month..... £142,357

CIRCULATION RETURNS.

And as compared with the Month ending 27th November, 1852, it shows—

An *increase* in the Notes of Private Banks, of..... £188,038

An *increase* in the Notes of Joint Stock Banks, of 141,666

Total *increase*, as compared with the same period of last year .. £329,704

The following appears to be the comparative state of the circulation, as regards the fixed issues—

The Private Banks are *below* their fixed issues £648,615

The Joint Stock Banks are *below* their fixed issues 204,987

Total *BELOW* the fixed issues £853,602

Irish and Scotch Circulation Returns.

Average Circulation, and Coin held by the IRISH and SCOTCH BANKS during the four weeks ending Saturday, the 26th day of November, 1853.

IRISH BANKS.

NAME OF BANK.	Authorised Circulation.	Average Circulation during Four Weeks, ending as above.			Average Amount of Gold & Silver Coin held during Four Weeks ending as above.
		£s and upwards.	Under £5.	Total.	
	£	£	£	£	£
Bank of Ireland.....	3,738,428	1,825,900	1,228,725	3,054,625	747,704
Provincial Bank of Ireland	927,667	345,952	618,430	964,382	235,164
Belfast Bank	281,611	59,416	448,916	508,332	316,489
Northern Bank	243,440	37,595	243,085	280,680	60,484
Ulster Bank	311,079	57,686	417,312	474,998	198,664
National Bank of Ireland...	761,757	391,263	628,065	1,019,329	387,520
Carrick-on-Suir Nat. Bank	24,084	11,195	13,724	24,919	5,638
Cloamell National Bank ...	66,428	23,067	28,888	51,955	9,560
TOTALS (Irish Banks) ...	6,354,494	2,752,074	3,627,145	6,379,220	1,961,223

SCOTCH BANKS.

Bank of Scotland	300,485	144,887	294,534	439,421	169,387
Royal Bank of Scotland ...	183,000	72,095	134,758	206,853	53,448
British Linen Company	438,024	207,805	341,735	549,540	142,320
Commercial Bk. of Scotland	374,880	178,477	377,454	555,931	221,647
National Bank of Scotland..	297,024	119,147	251,849	370,997	99,172
Union Bank of Scotland and Banking Com. in Aberdeen	415,690	176,474	362,148	538,622	159,563
Edinburgh & Glasgow Bk...	136,657	69,269	109,674	178,943	49,513
Aberdeen Town and Co. Bk.	70,133	34,591	74,803	109,304	47,386
North of Scotland Bk. Co...	154,319	89,420	118,629	208,049	59,704
Dundee Banking Company	334,51	9,855	28,342	38,197	6,703
Eastern Bank of Scotland...	33,636	13,974	28,369	42,343	10,222
Western Bank of Scotland..	337,938	148,856	378,742	527,598	227,639
Clydesdale Banking Co. ...	104,028	39,242	113,887	153,129	55,861
City of Glasgow Bank	72,921	68,750	99,750	168,500	109,176
Caledonian Banking Co. ...	53,434	26,955	52,090	79,045	34,035
Perth Banking Company ...	38,656	20,537	35,539	56,076	23,903
Central Bank of Scotland...	42,933	22,546	41,301	63,848	24,105
TOTALS (Scotch Banks)...	3,087,209	1,442,880	2,843,604	4,286,486	1,493,784

CIRCULATION RETURNS.

SUMMARY OF IRISH & SCOTCH RETURNS TO NOVEMBER 26, 1853.

The Returns of Circulation of the Irish and Scotch Banks for the four weeks ending 26th November, when added together, give the following as the average weekly circulation of these banks during the past month, viz.:—

Average Circulation of the Irish Banks... £6,379,220
Average Circulation of the Scotch Banks 4,286,486

Total Average Circulation of these Banks
for the past month £10,665,706

On comparing these amounts with the Returns for the month ending 29th October last, they show—

Increase in the Circulation of Irish Banks £112,168
Increase in the Circulation of Scotch Banks 298,797

Total increase on the month £410,965

And as compared with the month ending November 27th, 1852, they show—

Increase in the Circulation of Irish Banks £756,068
Increase in the Circulation of Scotch Banks 382,607

Total increase on the year 1,138,675

The fixed issues of the Irish and Scotch Banks at the present time are given in the *Banking Almanac*, as follows:—

8 Banks in Ireland, allowed to issue... £6,354,494
18 Banks in Scotland, allowed to issue .. 3,087,209
26 Banks in all, allowed to issue..... £9,441,703

The following appears, therefore, to be the comparative state of the circulation:—

Irish Banks are above their fixed issue .. £24,726
Scotch Banks are above their fixed issue 1,199,277

Total above the fixed issue £1,224,003

The amounts of Gold and Silver held at the head offices of the several banks, during the past month, have been as follows:—

Gold and Silver held by the Irish Banks £1,961,223
Gold and Silver held by the Scotch Banks 1,493,784

Total of Gold and Silver Coin £3,455,007

Being an increase of £169,781 on the part of the Irish Banks, and an increase of £205,592 on the part of the Scotch Banks, on the several amounts held by them during the preceding month.

CIRCULATION OF THE UNITED KINGDOM TO NOVEMBER 26, 1853.

The following is the state of the Note Circulation of the United Kingdom, for the month ending the 26th November, 1853.

Circulation of Notes for the Month ending November 26th, as compared with the previous month:

	Oct. 29.	Nov. 26.	Increase.	Decrease.
Bank of England	£23,160,111	£21,935,951	—	£1,224,160
Private Banks	4,068,287	3,967,994	—	100,293
Joint Stock Banks	3,162,934	3,120,870	—	42,064
Total in England	30,391,332	29,024,815	—	1,366,517
Scotland	3,987,689	4,286,486	298,797	—
Ireland	6,267,052	6,379,220	112,168	—
United Kingdom.....	40,646,073	39,690,321	416,965	1,366,517

The comparison of the month ending November 27th, 1852, with the month ending November 26th, 1853, shows a *decrease* in the Bank of England circulation of £1,045,879, an *increase* in Private Banks of £188,038, and an *increase* in Joint Stock Banks of £141,666; being a total *decrease* in England of £716,175: while in Scotland there is an *increase* of £382,607; and in Ireland an *increase* of £756,068. Thus showing that the month ending 26th November, as compared with the same period last year, presents a *decrease* of £716,175 in England, and an *increase* of £422,500 in the *United Kingdom*.

The return of Bullion in the Bank of England, for the month ending November 26th, gives an aggregate amount in both departments of £15,611,275. On a comparison of this with the Return for the month ending October 29th, there appears to be an *increase* of £298,409; and a *decrease* of £5,688,438 as compared with the same period last year.

The stock of specie held by the Banks in Scotland and Ireland during the month ending 26th November, was £3,455,007; being an *increase* of £375,373 as compared with the return of the previous month, and an *increase* of £939,837 as compared with the corresponding period last year.

THE BANKERS' MAGAZINE,

AND

Journal of the Money Market.

FEBRUARY, 1854.

PSEUDO-FOREIGN BILLS OF EXCHANGE.

CREDIT is the very life-blood of commerce; and the essence of credit is confidence and good faith. Credit, in fact, is one of the distinctive marks of civilisation—at once its cause and effect; it circulates freely and vigorously where integrity and honour are respected, but stagnates and becomes chill and torpid if exposed to suspicion and distrust. Credit does for capital what division of employment does for labour—it does not create capital, but it increases its productiveness; it multiplies amazingly the operations of trade, and is the prime agent for promoting and facilitating mercantile intercourse.

The main representatives of credit are bills of exchange and promissory notes, which are, as it were, the handmaids of capital. The legislature, as the trade of the country extended, made forgery—which, at common law, was originally only a misdemeanour—a capital offence; and it is only within the last few years that it ceased to be classed in the scale of punishment with murder itself. The mercantile greatness of England is perhaps attributable in a greater degree to the honour and *bona fides* of her merchants than even to their enterprising spirit or the advantages resulting from our insular position or natural resources. Credit, it is true, like other good things, may be perverted, and used as an instrument of evil; it may be made the abettor of reckless speculation and wild adventure, and in this way cause the ruin of thousands; but our remarks apply to credit upon a sound basis—as the servant of capital, but not as an independent power.

We have been led into these reflections by the reports in the

newspapers of cases which occurred in the London Bankruptcy Court, respecting pseudo-foreign bills of exchange. Letters on the same subject have also appeared in the *Times*, and the question is much discussed in the City. Three cases occurred before Commissioners Fonblanque and Fane—that of O’Kell before the former, and of Dalrymple and Oppenheim before the latter, in which the grievous hardship of the present law was illustrated. The last, however, will serve our purpose—that of Oppenheim.

The facts are as follows:—Mr. Oppenheim, a German, carried on business in this country as a merchant, and also acted as the London agent of a Natal house. He failed some months ago, and became bankrupt. Amongst the creditors of his estate was the London and Westminster Bank, whose officer proved a debt in the usual way upon a bill of exchange, of which Oppenheim was the acceptor. The bill was as follows:—

“Natal, Dec. 15, 1852.

No. 740.—£300.

At 90 days’ sight pay this our first of exchange (second and third unpaid), to the order of ourselves, the sum of £300, for value received, which place to the account of

J. A. JACKSON and Co.

To Mr. Simon L. Oppenheim,
10, Broad Street Buildings, London.

Accepted Feb. 28, 1853; payable at Messrs. Martin and Co., June 1, 1853.
—SIMON L. OPPENHEIM.”

As the instrument purported to be drawn at Natal, it bore no stamp, but it was subsequently ascertained that it was drawn, not at Natal, but at the acceptor’s office in London, and, being unstamped, could not be received as the legal representative of the debt; “the proof” of the London and Westminster Bank was therefore expunged. The bank had discounted the bill in the usual course of trade as a *foreign bill*, and in entire ignorance that it was not what it purported to be. But when they seek to establish their claim—their indisputably just and unquestioned claim—they are told by the Court of Bankruptcy that the bill, being in reality a British bill, is good for nothing, as it is unstamped, and if they were to seek redress by action, they could not sue *on the bill*, for the Stamp Act would again intervene. In this case it so happened that the indorser was also insolvent, so that the bank has no redress. Such is the state of the law. It is evident that a gross injustice has been inflicted upon the innocent holders of this instrument, and that a serious blow has been given to a very useful and convenient mode of commercial negotiation.

It is quite true that a bill of exchange may be drawn, accepted,

or indorsed by an agent or attorney verbally authorised for the purpose; but then the agent must write the name of his principal, or state in writing that he draws or accepts, or indorses, as the case may be, as agent—that he does so by procuration. There is here no false pretence; but it is surely a delusion, and a discreditable sham, to send into the world an instrument with a lie upon the face of it. A dramatist may be excused who asks his audience to listen to a dialogue in which the actors represent men who died a thousand years ago, and who lived a thousand miles off; but truth and justice are outraged when, in the sober transactions of trade, London is treated as Natal, and when that which should be the legal assignment of a debt, carrying with it all the rights of the original creditor, becomes a piece of waste paper in the hands of those who paid for it in hard cash. The operation of the Stamp Act is so essential a part of the instrument that, as is well known, the indorser who affixes his name before the sum be stated, is liable to the extent the stamp will cover, but for *no more*.

Of the various remedies pointed out for the acknowledged and admitted hardships resulting from the present system, the main ones are—the abolition of the stamp duties upon all bills of exchange, the substitution of a penny stamp, liberty to an innocent holder, like the Westminster Bank, to affix a stamp subsequently, and legalise the instrument, and the enforcing of heavy penalties against the parties guilty of this sort of deception. As to the first, there is at present no chance whatever of the entire remission of the stamp duty on bills of exchange. The revenue derived from this source is very considerable, and the Chancellor of the Exchequer is not in a condition just now to dispense with any of the sources of revenue; and, indeed, even if he were, there are many other taxes which, pressing more heavily on the springs of trade, have a prior claim to reduction. As to the second—the affixing a penny stamp—here, too, there would be a clear loss of revenue, and the arguments for the abolition of the *ad valorem* stamp do not seem very cogent. The third suggestion is certainly founded on justice; but it is much to be feared that it would lead to much juggling and deception; for if it were permitted to the innocent holder to affix a stamp after it was ascertained that the bill was not a foreign bill, any holder would be an “innocent holder,” or, at least, it would be almost impossible to prove that he was not so. However, this is certain, and this includes our ideas upon the fourth suggestion, that there is one party at least to the bill who ought to be held not only answerable but punishable—the person who *must know* that he is guilty of deceit—namely, the drawer of the bill. Common justice demands that the man who, sitting in his

counting-house in London, puts "Natal" or St. Petersburg at the head of an inland bill of exchange, without any intimation on the face of the instrument that it is not what it purports to be—a foreign bill—should not be suffered to inflict an injury upon the honest trader with impunity. It is to this point the attention of the Government should be forthwith directed.

SUPPLY OF FOOD AND RANGE OF PRICES.

WHEN, in reference to this topic, Sir JAMES GRAHAM, in his work "*Corn and Currency*," gave expression to the opinion—"decrease the quantity of money, prices fall; increase the quantity of money, prices rise," he recorded a great truth, which every day's experience since the discovery of the precious metallic mines in California, Australia, and elsewhere, is more and more establishing. Hence, in discussing the question before us, and forming calculations thereupon, it will be alike necessary that we take into account, not less the crop of money (if we may be permitted so to speak) for the last five years, than the crops of grain in the years 1853 and 1854. If we do this, we shall find that of the former there has been a very large increase, and of the latter a great diminution. It was computed by one of our writers on the subject, some nine months ago, that, by means of the recent discoveries of the mines of precious metals, the world's stock of gold had, in little more than four years, been increased 10 per cent., whilst its stock of silver had been increased even to the extent of 25 per cent. We have it further on official record, that during the same period the Bank of England has had many millions' worth of gold dust—the produce of the mines—coined into sovereigns. Now, here we have, without reference to other influences, materials wherewith to account to a great extent—(perhaps to the amount of 30 per cent.)—for the remarkable advance in the prices of commodities generally. Gold—unlike corn, and even coal, for instance—is an article that, once discovered and converted into sovereigns, and not into merely decorative purposes, is not of a perishable or consumable character. Hence, dispose of them as or place them where you may, the additional quantity of sovereigns must be still in existence; and they cannot, in the nature of things, thus continue to exist without being employed, and exercising a commanding influence upon prices. Consumption and production are thus incited—trade, and commerce, and agriculture, and enterprise, are thereby stimulated. In such a state of things, it

greatly behoves us to guard against the danger of the increased consumption of commodities being more rapid than their increased production. There is a natural tendency in prosperity—especially in its incipient stages—to engender luxury and indolence rather than economy and industry; and we cannot but greatly fear that this has been the result to some serious extent, not only with ourselves, but also with some of our continental neighbours. We have heard of “shorter hours” and “strikes” concurrently with augmented consumption. Such a state of things cannot last. Even with average harvests it must, in the lapse of time, tell a tale: with a very deficient harvest, that tale must be sad indeed. Increased consumption, we repeat, cannot proceed, *pari passu*, with decreased production—we cannot eat that which has not been produced. There is no royal road to prosperity of this character, whatever some enthusiastic politicians may assure us to the contrary. It well behoves us to bear in mind that political economy tells stern truths as well as encouraging truths.

These preliminary observations advanced, we feel that our readers may be in a better position to judge how far the estimates of our dangers, and encouragements which we may now make, are based on sound and true principles. We believe that the greatly augmented quantity of money in circulation during the spring and summer of 1853, greatly stimulated the consumption of grain. We further believe that that increased consumption so far stimulated prices as to induce our agriculturists to reduce their stocks to an unusually low standard by the time of the gathering in of the harvest of 1853, rather than incur the risk of not obtaining, after that harvest, under the influence of an unrestricted competition with the corn-growing countries of the world, so high a range of prices as the 60s. per quarter that then prevailed. Three pounds per quarter for wheat was a price that neither free-traders nor protectionist farmers had for years expected to have ever again witnessed; and it is not to be supposed that the latter did not extensively avail themselves of the opportunity that such a price afforded them. We might instance a case bearing on this point that has come under our own knowledge. An intelligent agriculturist in the county of Nottingham—a “high farmer,” paying a rental of £700 a year, and keeping books methodically, so as to be able to ascertain at any time the state of his position—had for four or five years found that his capital and skill had been unaccompanied with profit. In August, 1853, as he surveyed his few unsold stacks and numerous growing crops of grain, he computed that, if he could only be but so fortunate as to turn them into money at the then existing prices, he would realise a profit of £2,000 upon

the year's farming—all the difference per quarter between 44s. and 60s. would be profit. He was thereupon in haste to "thrash out;" but, upon doing so, he found, to his great astonishment, that instead of having five-sixths of an average crop, he had not three-fourths. He did not, however, sufficiently reflect upon that and other circumstances until he had sold an unusually large portion of his stock for the period of the year; and we believe that farmers generally have so far acted upon the view he then took, that of their average annual stock or produce a less portion is held at the time we write than in almost any year in the same period or month since 1848 or 1849. Should this unfortunately prove to be the case, a reference to a few only of the leading facts that must necessarily exercise an influence upon supply and prices, will suffice to show that, as a nation, we cannot, at the present moment, exercise too much foresight and prudent economy.

The average annual production of wheat by this country is computed at 24,000,000 quarters—its average annual importation during the last few years has been 8,000,000 quarters; we thus require for our population a yearly supply of 32,000,000 quarters. In reference to the crop of 1853, we wrote, in our number for August, that, "under the most favourable weather and circumstances, not more than four-fifths of an average crop could be reasonably anticipated." We further quoted this opinion of a well-informed agricultural correspondent in Derbyshire and Staffordshire:—"Wheat, I am sure, in this district, will be not less than a third deficient, considering the amount of average, and so many thin crops, owing to the bad seed time and wet winter." Anxious not to anticipate evil, or excite undue speculation and alarm, and knowing that our correspondent resided in a district that possesses a somewhat wet and heavy soil, we were willing to hope that the deficiency in the average wheat crop in the country would not exceed one-fourth. In conversation on this subject, two or three weeks ago, with a gentleman residing in Lincolnshire, and largely engaged in mercantile and agricultural pursuits, we found that he did not compute the deficiency of our wheat crop of 1853 at less than one-third, and our other grain crops, on the aggregate, as having been a fair annual average. Being endowed with an observing mind, possessing facilities for travelling and instituting inquiries, and his calculations on such matters being generally borne out by the results of time and experience, we feel that we cannot now err in estimating the deficiency in our wheat harvest of 1853 at less than one-third, or 8,000,000 quarters. The inquiry naturally arises, how is this very large deficiency to be supplied? and what may be the probable range of prices during the long

period of seven months that have yet to intervene between the time we write and the harvest of 1854? Assume, for the sake of the argument, that the importations and stocks of our merchants have been about an average up to this period of the year, or even a million or so of quarters in excess, and we cannot yet require an importation of much less a quantity than 10,000,000 or 12,000,000 of quarters between this and the gathering in of our harvest. Granted, that high prices, and recourse to coarser substitutes than wheaten flour, may even greatly lessen our consumption, if not our requirements, still, in the state of affairs in the East, and of the grain harvests of the world in 1853, we cannot but feel that it were better now to err on the side of unduly exciting in our corn merchants a spirit of enterprise, and in our people one of timely economy and forethought, than to encourage in their minds any false notions and false feelings of security from actual and great scarcity. It is true that we read of anticipated imports to the extent of "1,000,000 quarters in the course of the next ensuing three months;" but "what," it may be reverently asked, "are they among so many?" This is but about one-half even of the extent of average importations, whereas our requirements are double; and there is not, as yet, any perceptible diminution in the quantity, and scarcely any even in the quality, of the bread-stuffs consumed by our population. The influx of the precious metals from Australia, and elsewhere, still keeps, and may even continue to keep, the money market in a state of comparative ease; and we fear that nothing short of higher, and even of much higher prices, will so far check the rate of consumption as to enable us to "tide over" until harvest, without being subjected to actual and great scarcity. In adverting, in October last, to this subject in contemporary pages, we recorded our opinion that, should wheat, in the month of December, 1853, range at no higher a figure than 75*s.* per quarter, the only effect would be, that the consumption would be so great, and the future supply so inadequate, as to render unavoidable a price so high as 100*s.*, or even 110*s.* per quarter, before August, 1854; whereas, if the consumption were regular and uniform, an average price of 90*s.* per quarter, for the year, would be about the range. We see no reason whatever, after the lapse of some months, to alter that opinion, except in one respect. Should the consumption and importations only proceed for a few more months in the same ratio as the past, it would be difficult to define a limit to which prices may not attain. What may be the state, and what the period of our harvest of 1854, and, indeed, of the harvests of Europe, it were difficult, if not, indeed, impossible, at present, to form any correct opinion. Providence

is uniformly more bountiful than man deserves; and it is most devoutly to be hoped that we may not be again visited with both a late and a deficient harvest. The indications, for the period of the year at which we write, are of about the average character. The great fall of rain in the month of October greatly retarded the usual operations of seed time. We cannot but fear that much seed was got into the ground when in a state of bad condition; and it is beyond all question that the failure in our harvest of 1853 was justly attributable, in a great degree, to the unfavourable character of the preceding autumn and spring seed seasons. We must not, however, omit to take into account that the genial winter, accompanied as it has been by both frost and snow, will conduce alike to the benefit of soils, the productiveness of crops, and the destruction of those tribes of insect vermin that too often blight alike our grain, hop, potato, and fruit prospects. If to this be added the unusually large breadth of land now under wheat crop, and the stimulus which recent high prices have given to culture, we are willing to believe that our agricultural prospects for the year 1854 present a fair average character. The turnip and mangel wurzel crops, now in process of consumption, have, we are sorry to hear, been found somewhat deficient when subjected to that test. The drought in the early part of the year caused them to be "patchy," and the subsequent excessive wet has further caused their "tops," on many soils, to be greatly in excess of the more solid and valuable portion of the crop. Hay, too, is bad in quality, and deficient in nutritive properties. We cannot, therefore, anticipate the production of meat of all kinds to be beyond an average quantity, or that any diminution in its price may in some degree compensate for, and supply the deficiency in, our grain crops.

In the midst of much that is thus calculated to excite anxiety, it is cheering to observe (see the official returns by the Board of Trade, as given in another page) that the exports of many of our great staple productions have been and continue to be on a greatly advancing scale, thereby clearly indicating that our productive classes, notwithstanding "strikes," are being well employed, and occupied in providing the means wherewith to obtain for us the required supply of bread-stuffs, without seriously disarranging the exchanges or our monetary affairs. The high prices that range for coal and iron will tend to make this a work of less difficulty than in former years, when the abstraction from us of only a few millions of the very limited quantity of the precious metals then existing was sufficient to paralyze alike our finances, our manufactures, our agriculture, and our industry. True, we must not overlook the fact that, in one respect, these official returns of our exports present, at the

first view, an appearance of extraordinary manufacturing and mercantile industry on our part, that a little more reflection will enable us to detect. We cannot, for instance, omit to notice that, should our exports present the appearance of having increased 30 per cent., they may not actually have increased at all, if the effect of the discoveries of the precious metals has been to advance the money value of commodities thus exported, to the extent of 30 per cent. Still, the returns in question suffice to show—keeping up as they thus do at a very high figure, notwithstanding the difficulties consequent upon repeated failures in our potato and grain crops—that either free trade or the mines of the precious metals must be rendering nugatory hostile tariffs, and opening an interchange of their natural products between the nations of the earth, that must, on the aggregate, be beneficial to England, and, indeed, to the world. All laws that have for their object an interference with or check upon the laws of nature, are being more and more felt, by our continental neighbours as well by ourselves, to be unwise and prejudicial. It is a fortunate circumstance for England, in the present juncture of her affairs, that the country to which she must chiefly look, for the required supply of bread-stuffs, is a friendly power and her best customer. A disturbance of the peace of Europe cannot interfere with our supplies of grain and flour from the United States of America; and whether we regard the character of her harvest of 1853, the extent of her territory, or her powers of absorbing all the manufactures that will be required from us to liquidate the enormous amount payable for her corn, at the existing very high range of prices, it is encouraging to be able to feel that, humanly speaking, no obstacles can occur to prevent our obtaining the required supply of food for our present emergency. Still, whether it might not be desirable that influential quarters, not excepting even the legislature itself, should avail themselves of an early opportunity to take the initiative in counselling the heads of our public institutions and the poorer classes of society to exercise a timely economy in respect to the consumption of wheaten bread and flour, is a matter that may not be undeserving of consideration. It was only the other day that we were assured by a gentleman of much practical observation that, although he knew many who were already experiencing great privations, yet they were so situated, and so far under the influence of custom and habit, that they continued to eat only the finest quality of white wheaten bread, although, by so doing, they purchased of it even a larger quantity, and deprived themselves of all animal food and other necessities of life that, according to the present range of prices, are actually both cheaper and more nutritive than bread at $2\frac{1}{4}d.$ or $3d.$ per pound. Nothing short of the

finest wheaten bread at 4*d.* or 5*d.* per pound would, he feared, induce them even to think of asking for either the browner kind of bread, or the oat cakes that are occasionally eaten by the *élite* of the aristocracy at the west end of London, as being alike a luxury, fully as nutritive, and more conducive to health, than the ordinary run of bakers' bread, extensively adulterated as the latter is—especially at the present moment, when the temptation to adulterate is so great—by positively deleterious ingredients. It will be a reflection upon the intelligence of the age, should this habit be persisted in until actual want and starvation are thereby occasioned.

Touching the influence of the food question upon monetary affairs, it may not be unadvisable to notice that the position of the Bank of France is beginning to excite some uneasiness. The impolitic course adopted by the French Government, of fixing a maximum price for bread, can, in the end, only augment the suffering that it is intended to counteract. One of its consequences is evidenced in this drain upon the bullion of its National Bank. Another will, before long, become manifested in its having to buy corn when it has attained a higher price, and its monetary resources are further abridged. Happily, there is no reason to apprehend any recourse to so suicidal a policy on the part of England; and although the thought of her having to purchase, between the period at which we write and the harvest of 1854, some £30,000,000 or £40,000,000 worth of bread-stuffs, may excite a feeling of thoughtfulness and momentary misgiving, yet we cannot but cherish a strong feeling and confident hope that, under the blessing of PROVIDENCE, her forethought, energy and integrity will enable her to weather the storm.

PROGRESS OF 1853.

IN the last number of the *Bankers' Magazine* we noticed, in an article entitled "The Old and New Year," the principal financial events of the past twelve months. Since then, several of our daily cotemporaries have furnished their usual summaries, corroborating, in every respect, the facts and conclusions arrived at. Eliminating in detail the various causes influencing our general career, they afford much valuable matter for reference; and we have, accordingly, selected such portions as will supply both readable and statistical information.

The Times, in alluding to the progress of 1853, remarks:—

In the face of short harvests and Russian incendiarism, the commercial year just ended has been the most satisfactory one in history. At its commencement it was hailed as presenting prospects beyond those of

any former time; but it has shown, in its course, that a degree of vigour and soundness then prevailed far beyond anything that could have been estimated, since, if only a portion of the disturbing events that have since transpired could have been foreseen, there are few who would not have predicted ruin in many quarters, and anxiety and inconvenience in all. Instead of this, the whole year has been one of steady progress among every class, and in each department of industry; and the oldest persons conversant with mercantile pursuits cannot remember a period marked by so complete an absence either of direct failures or of private distrust.

On the 1st of January there was nothing to indicate the probable occurrence of distractions to the ordinary course of enterprise. A gradual and moderate diminution in the Bank bullion had been observable since July, when it had touched the highest point ever reached; but the ceaseless shipments of gold coin to Australia, and the non-arrival of large remittances from that country, furnished a satisfactory explanation. An increase in the rate of discount from £2 per cent., at which it had stood for nine months, was then adopted; and from the end of January to the beginning of June, both the money and stock markets remained with little further variation. At that time, however, forebodings regarding the harvest, and increasing suspicions of the designs of Russia, coupled with an eager absorption of capital in shipments to Australia and a heavy export of silver to the East, consequent upon the Chinese rebellion, caused a demand for accommodation, and a degree of political anxiety, that promoted a rapid augmentation in the discount charged at the Bank, until, at the commencement of October, it stood at 5 per cent., while Consols, in a moment of panic, descended to 90 $\frac{3}{4}$. In the midst of all this, the general trade of the country remained entirely firm; and although since that date the conflict in the East, which was then only probable, has actually commenced, and each day's experience of the results of the harvest, not only in England, but in most parts of Europe, has shown it to have been one of the most deplorable ever known—although, also, the shipments of specie to China have merely moderated, and the necessities or fears of the Emperor of Russia have caused him suddenly to withdraw nearly a million sterling from our markets—a decided reaction has been maintained, until the unprecedented position of the funds, with war and scarcity against them, has called forth more remark than any other circumstance of the time.

And while the progress of the commercial transactions has thus been everywhere satisfactory, the advances made in financial legislation have been, on the whole, greater than in any former year. The total repeal or reduction of the imposts on nearly 300 articles of food or comfort, was one of the earliest measures of the Parliamentary session; and when to this is added the abolition of the Excise on soap and of the tax on advertisements, the reduction and simplification of the assessed taxes, and the introduction of the penny receipt stamp, together with the application of the legacy duty to real estate, an amount of fiscal improvement is summed up, such as is rarely accomplished with similar expedition. These, however, are far from completing the catalogue of what the year

has done for commercial freedom. The measure for establishing a reduced and uniform rate of postage to the British possessions in all parts of the world, the working out of a reform of the Customs, the arrangements for bringing the charge for the collection of the revenue under the control of Parliament, and the Mercantile Marine and Pilotage Bills—including the removal of the prohibition against the employment of foreign seamen in merchant ships—have all been movements of a character such as are only obtained as the results of long previous efforts on the part of enlightened labourers. Equal to them also, in ultimate importance, will be two other steps, the arrangements for which have already commenced—namely, the compilation of agricultural statistics and the establishment of a decimal currency.

At the same time, the year has been unusually remarkable in its results on our commercial relations with other countries. The two most important nations with whom we are in intercourse, have just announced a decided tendency to free trade. The reduction of the iron and coal duties in France is a measure the probable consequences of which have scarcely yet been sufficiently estimated; while the simplification and lowering of the United States' tariff, about to be proposed to Congress, must also prove of great advantage. Probably, however, the change in our foreign traffic, destined to be the most singular of all, has been rapidly in course of preparation in China.

The most cheering feature in the entire retrospect remains to be noticed, in the universal manner in which the benefits enjoyed have been diffused. On all former occasions of great prosperity, there have been sectional drawbacks to show that the improvement was more or less owing to temporary circumstances affecting different trades, or connected with a peculiar state of the money market, instead of to any great and all-pervading change in the conditions of general enterprise. The causes now in operation have, as was anticipated, proved themselves beyond all narrow and local influences; and it is a singular illustration of this fact, that during the past year the sole exceptions to the universal well-doing have been found either among those who have refused to recognise the sound basis on which it rested, or those who, in gaining much, have felt dissatisfied at not gaining more. Thus, the only cases of inability to meet engagements have been a few of moderate amount among the speculators for a fall in the Stock Exchange; while, on the part of the operative classes, no distress has been witnessed, but from their own determination to decline work unless upon better terms than those already reached.

Turning to our prospects for 1854, as far as all the ordinary elements of such a question are concerned, they are again full of encouragement. Intrinsically as favourable as those that prevailed on the 1st of January last, they are stronger in proportion to all the advantages attained by the intervening progress of civilisation. The same continuation of the rapid development of the gold discoveries seems certain, aided by the receipt of heavy returns for many months of active trade since brought within the limits of the strictest prudence. A year ago it was plain that the great problem of the day was, as to the chan-

nels of investment into which the gold accumulations would flow, and the same point is still the most important one before us. It was then seen that extravagant expenditure, the construction of great undertakings, or a recourse to investments in other countries, were the only three modes in which the growth of colonial wealth could find an outlet; and that, whether one or all of these should be witnessed, the effect must be alike rapid on this country, and through it upon the world. Thus far the first mode—namely, that of unlimited expenditure upon imported articles of indulgence—has been seen in operation; but the commencement of vast works of public utility is obviously approaching, and these will probably be carried to an extent to avert the necessity of the third alternative, of seeking securities of distant origin. In each case, however, the final result will be the same. If imported goods are consumed, the demand must increase the price, and that increase of price must find its way into the pockets of the producer and his men. The formation of public works can lead only to a different or an additional class of importations, coupled with an extended immigration, owing to the employment offered still further raising the value of labour here, and causing the Australian importer to have to pay yet higher prices for his goods of all kinds. Hence, throughout the whole process, the gold in due proportion comes to this side, and the profits thus created must find investment. A portion will be employed, as hitherto, in still further extending trade; but the destination of the main sum must be towards new or existing securities of all kinds. The operation of this inevitable tendency has already been witnessed in the extent to which, during the past twelve months, it has counteracted the effect of the singular combination of circumstances that must otherwise, as far as the stock markets of this and other countries are concerned, have produced serious inconveniences. Not only has the hoarding consequent upon the Treasury system of the United States gone on, until at length a total of £5,000,000 sterling has been as much withdrawn from useful circulation as if it were at the bottom of the sea, but an analogous course, to a greater extent, has been pursued in India. At the same time, the state of China has led to the export of several millions sterling to the East, to purchase goods for which, amid the prevalent apprehensions, no other than metallic payments have been available, while we have also seen another million unexpectedly shipped to Amsterdam or St. Petersburg. Yet, although these, which might have been sufficient of themselves to create considerable confusion, have been merely subordinate events in a year of which the outbreak of war, and the occurrence of a harvest that has sent food almost to famine prices, have been the principal features, they have not prevented the continuous manifestation of firmness in the prices of property of every description—a firmness which, as regards the stock market, would have been still more palpable but for the fact that, in the previous year, as well as at the commencement of this, the supply of securities was augmented by a large number of foreign undertakings, principally of a healthy character, the outlay for which has since been in active progress.

The altered circumstances distinguishing the prospects of 1854 are

—1, the apparent certainty that the drain of capital to Australia, whether in the shape of coin, or of produce and labour paid for by coin, will be far more than counterbalanced by the receipts from that country; 2, that the efflux of specie to the East will likewise experience a turn, from the effect of the quantity already sent; and, 3, that, with the present rate of money, no new outlay in distant schemes is likely to take place. With regard to the corn question, and the probability of an exportation of gold to pay for what is yet required to make up our deficiency, it must be borne in mind that, so long as the wants of the Continent are greater than our own, we can look only to America for the necessary quantity, or, failing an adequate supply from that quarter, to the influence of high prices leading to a lessened consumption. In the case of large importations from America, experience has shown that the burden of payment is likely to be lightened by a proportionate increase in the demand for our manufactured goods; while, in the opposite event of extreme prices, from our being confined to our own resources, the result, although fraught with vast individual distress, is merely a transference of money from the pockets of the masses to those of the agriculturists. Seeing, therefore, that, although the food question will undoubtedly be a most anxious one between this time and next harvest, aspects are conceivable under which its monetary influence may, perhaps, be favourably modified, there is reason to believe that the general state of affairs, viewed simply in their ordinary light, may be contemplated not merely with a fair degree of confidence, but even with an anticipation of their realising the desires of the most sanguine.

That the influences of the gold discoveries no longer admit of blindness or dispute, is now becoming universally acknowledged; and the feeling is also general that they must increase in rapidity. The only ways in which their inevitable consequences can be demonstrated is by theoretical reasoning, and the practical evidence of an extensive and continuous rise in prices. The first process was long ago performed; and the second is visible to every one, although some, preferring to attribute it entirely to co-incident causes, which have unquestionably been in operation, may yet refuse to accept it as conclusive. Meanwhile, whatever may have resulted thus far from the increased production, it is plain that the movement is likely henceforth to be accelerated. The absorption of large amounts traversing the ocean in the shape of coin, while equal sums are coming the other way, will no longer be witnessed; the hoarded totals in the United States and India must, sooner or later, be set free; the delay in the depreciation of gold, consequent upon its taking the place of silver, must be lessened by the recent determination of the Bank of France to retain all that remains to them of the latter metal; and, finally, the eager attention devoted to all scientific methods for preventing waste, and for extracting gold profitably from ore which, under other circumstances, would have yielded no return, must not merely prevent a falling off in the supply, but, most likely, year by year, enable it to be brought from new and unlooked-for sources. There is no probability, therefore, that the stir which has commenced in all the relations of property, or in the diffusion

of enterprise, is likely to subside. Each year, moreover, we open upon new prospects in an increasing ratio; and, among those which now present themselves as calculated to develop fresh fields for adventure, and for an extension of traffic, are the navigation, just consummated, of 1,200 miles of the river Murray, and the expedition that is commencing to explore the Amazon.

But all these considerations, although positive in themselves under natural circumstances, become vague at the present moment, until they are confronted by the question as to how they will be affected by war. Setting that contingency aside, everything is, as was the case at the same period of last year, sufficiently clear to warrant the statement, that the condition of the country is sound to its core, and that there never was a time when men might carry on their occupations with a greater certainty of reward. To the chaotic elements of famine, war, or other convulsions, however, the deductions of economical science must still, except as regards some few general conclusions, be subordinate; yet, even at the present hour, enough seems discernible to avert any unworthy fears. The power by which the signal for anarchy has been unfurled, is not one that can seriously impede our commerce in any sea; and, even if this were not the case, the maritime capabilities of the United States would be sufficient to carry it on wherever it might otherwise be disturbed. Its consumption of our goods has been less than that of some of the pettiest states; while, on the other hand, the shutting out of its produce will soon stimulate an increased trade in the substitutes offered by its rivals. The great point, therefore, as respects material considerations, is the expense to be incurred in armaments, and on this the prospects are far different from any former occasion. The plan of subsidizing other nations will never again be reverted to; and it must be remembered that the conflict which may necessitate loans for the Home Government, will effectually preclude any new ones being granted to other powers. For the last twenty years there have been few exceptions when the annual sums lent to foreign nations have been less than £10,000,000 or £15,000,000 sterling; and under no reasonable supposition can the amount required for the most active operations exceed the outflow that will thus be checked. If circumstances had been different, Austria, staggering as she is in the last stage of insolvency, and Russia, unable to make even a railroad without an appeal for English capital, would certainly have appeared in our market for an aggregate of many millions, to say nothing of those amounts needed by the Italian and other states, whether for purposes of revenue or internal improvement. With these drains cut off on the one hand, and the influx of Australian wealth on the other, there is ground to hope that, if a prosperous harvest should be realised, we may pass even through a war, with a similar absence of commercial disturbance to that with which we have this year passed through an unprecedented combination of adverse crops and political perplexities.

The *Morning Chronicle*, dealing with the facts and figures of the twelvemonth, in some preliminary observations remarks:—

Rarely has a year exhibited so many features of commercial interest as that which has just closed. Other years have displayed exciting conditions of commerce—some of great prosperity, and some of serious disaster—but none has presented more rapid and remarkable changes than 1853. The period opened with prospects calculated to create a belief that commercial speculation of every kind would be rewarded with golden returns. No former period can be remembered when the indications of an active commerce were of the same encouraging character. The discovery of gold in Australia, and the immense arrivals of the metal, created a very general belief that money would be abundant for commercial purposes in the months to come. The Australian trade itself appeared to offer a vast and profitable opening for mercantile speculation; and the glowing accounts of the successes of the diggers led to the general belief that a vast emigration would operate to relieve the labour market, and diminish the poor rates. In all these respects events have not realised our expectations. It was a surprise to the commercial world that, so early as the 6th of January, when the public mind was filled with expectations of large supplies of gold, the directors of the Bank of England should have found it necessary to raise the minimum rate of discount from 2 to 2½ per cent. The fact came out that, although vast amounts of gold had been received from Australia, the bullion reserves of that establishment had suffered a diminution of £3,000,000 in about four weeks. The public, however, comforted themselves with the belief that this was a transient matter, and would pass away in so many weeks. But it was not so; and we have experienced a year of advancing rates of interest, accompanied by some amount of monetary pressure. Mercantile enterprise has largely engaged in the Australian trade, with various success; but its present result is a glut of goods. Australian emigration, which, in the early months of spring, promised to carry away most of the young, enterprising, and unemployed part of our population, suddenly received a check in the summer; and after the month of July, comparatively few passages were inquired for by intending emigrants.

In reviewing the commercial and monetary occurrences of the past year, the operations of the Bank of England must necessarily form the leading topic. As we have already noticed, the commencement of the successive augmentations in the rate of discount which have marked the last twelve months, was on the 6th of January, when the stock of bullion had, within a month, suffered a diminution of no less than three millions sterling. This seemed to supply a justification of some timely step, which should give warning to the public. There were not wanting, however, parties who asserted that this proceeding was rashly adopted—the belief being general that a sort of inundation of the precious metals would certainly result from the Australian gold discoveries; but the drain continued. If large gold arrivals took place, re-shipments speedily followed, and no permanent addition was made to the Bank bullion reserves. But, concurrently with the drain of bullion, there was also an increased demand for money; and the minimum rate of discount having for some time previously been as low as 2 per cent., it was not long before the Bank movement met with general

approval. The following are the changes which, in this respect, have taken place throughout the past year and three previous years:—

Bank of England—Minimum Rates of Discount.

1849. November 22	.. .. .	2½ per cent.
1850. December 26	.. .. .	3 ..
1852. January 1	.. .. .	2½ ..
.. April 22	.. .. .	2 ..
1853. January 6	.. .. .	2½ ..
.. January 20	.. .. .	3 ..
.. June 2 ..	.. .. .	3½ ..
.. September 1	.. .. .	4 ..
.. September 15	.. .. .	4½ ..
.. September 29	.. .. .	5 ..

We have seen that, in the short period of twelve months, the minimum rate of discount shot up from £2 to £5 per cent.; but we have had no failures. We have had a "crisis" without disaster; and, looking at the magnitude of our commercial transactions, it is remarkable that such a period could be passed through with no visible damage to credit. The commercial world may therefore congratulate itself upon the apparent soundness of its speculations, as exhibited in its ability to tide over such difficulties. Speculation has received a useful check at a time when it was greatly needed. It has happened lately that, in several directions, our foreign trade presented threatening aspects, Monetary and commercial affairs in America have not been in a satisfactory state. Something like a glut of goods exists in Australia. In China, commercial transactions are deranged by civil war. The war between Russia and Turkey may extensively affect commerce in all the markets of Europe. If, in such circumstances, the money pressure has had the effect of checking speculation for a time, it has probably saved us from losses.

The fluctuations in the value of the English funded securities, foreign stocks, and railway shares, have been very considerable.

The subjoined table shows the highest and lowest price of Consols during each month of the year, and the largest amount of bullion held by the Bank of England, together with the largest amount of its note circulation, in each month:—

Month of	Consols.		Bank of England.	
	Highest Price.	Lowest Price.	Stock of Bullion in week ending	Note Circulation, not including Seven day Bills, on week ending
Jan...	100½	99	Jan. 1 .. £20,527,662	Jan. 15 .. £23,661,370
Feb...	99½	99	Feb. 5 .. 18,700,812	Feb. 5 .. 22,695,410
March	100½	99	Mar. 19 .. 19,163,146	Mar. 5 .. 22,275,870
April.	101	99½	April 9 .. 19,226,334	April 16.. 23,613,165
May..	100½	100	May 7 .. 18,225,221	May 7 .. 23,469,845
June .	99	97½	June 25.. 18,665,289	June 4 .. 23,423,435
July..	98½	97½	July 2 .. 18,553,905	July 16 .. 23,888,060
August	98½	96½	Aug. 6 .. 17,434,560	Aug. 6 .. 23,522,795
Sept...	97½	90½	Sept. 3 .. 16,500,068	Sept. 3 .. 22,465,940
Oct...	94½	90½	Oct. 8 .. 15,749,089	Oct. 15 .. 23,667,385
Nov...	96	92½	Nov. 12.. 15,856,113	Nov. 5 .. 22,627,445
Dec...	95½x.d.	93½x.d.	Dec. 24 .. 15,819,041	Dec. 3 .. 21,205,800

The following table shows the fluctuations during the year in the value of the foreign securities :—

	Highest Price.	Lowest Price.	Difference.	
			Per Cent.	
Brazilian Five per Cents.	Jan... 103	Dec... 97	6	
Buenos Ayres Six per Cents.	" .. 75	Oct... 65	20	
Chilian Six per Cents.	" .. 108	Dec... 101	7	
Danish Five per Cents.	" .. 108	" .. 102	6	
Dutch Two-and-a-half per Cents.	" .. 67½	July .. 62	5½	
Do. Four per Cents.	" .. 99½	Dec... 95	4½	
Mexican Three per Cents.	Feb... 22½	April.. 28½	5½	
Peruvian Deferred	April.. 68	Dec... 58	10	
Portuguese Four per Cents.	Feb... 37½	Aug... 46	8½	
Russian Five per Cents... ..	Jan... 122	Dec... 111	11	
Ditto Four-and-a-half per Cents.	" .. 105	Oct... 96	9	
Sardinian Five per cents.	May .. 98½	Dec... 88	10½	
Spanish Three per Cents	Jan... 49½	" .. 46	3½	
Do. Deferred	April.. 25	" .. 22	3	
Venezuela Three and a half per Cents... ..	" .. 43	" .. 30	13	

The highest and lowest prices during the year of the leading railway shares have been as follows :—

Name of Share.	Highest Price.	Lowest Price.	Difference Per Share.
Caledonian	May.. 71	Sept... 45½	£25 5 0
Great Northern	" .. 90½	" .. 68½	22 5 6
Great Western	Jan... 95½	" .. 77½	18 7 6
Lancashire and Yorkshire	" .. 85½	" .. 60	25 2 6
London and Brighton	" .. 109	" .. 92	17 0 0
London and North Western	" .. 126½	" .. 98	28 10 0
London and South Western	" .. 93	Nov... 72	21 0 0
Midland	" .. 81	Sept... 54	27 0 0
South Eastern	" .. 85½	" .. 55½	30 5 0
York and Newcastle	" .. 74	" .. 56	18 0 0
York and North Midland	May.. 65	" .. 41	24 0 0

The *Public Ledger*, the principal organ of the colonial brokers, thus refers to the course of events in that department of business :—

By most mercantile men it is judged that the year now closing has on the whole been one of progressive commercial success for this country, notwithstanding the drawbacks which have, in an important degree, counteracted the highly promising appearances observed at its commencement. The home deliveries of most leading articles of domestic consumption will be found to have exceeded those of 1852, although a considerable increase then took place, and in few of those which enter largely into manufactures has a reduction occurred; while, as regards the exports of British produce and manufactures, as estimated on the

last official accounts according to the declared value, there will, most probably, be an increase of fully fifteen millions sterling; the relative excess in the ten months already published being nearly fourteen millions. With few exceptions, a comparison of prices ruling in the two years, shows a higher range to have prevailed in 1853, beyond the amount which the enhancement of freights may have added to the cost, the periods of dulness not having been attended by any serious or sudden depression; and failures among commercial houses have been of rare occurrence.

The events which have most importantly interfered with the successful course of commercial affairs, anticipated at the outset of the year, have been the persistent advance in the rate of discount; the scantiness of the harvest in this and neighbouring countries; the extensive suspension of labour in the manufacturing districts, and the disputes and hostilities between Turkey and Russia.

The operation of the first of these causes commenced as early as the first week in January, by the raising of the Bank minimum rate from 2 to 2½ per cent., which, though early followed by a further advance, yet, being then deemed temporary or unimportant, and the influx of gold undiminished, little effect was produced until later in the year, when, concurrently with the drain of bullion from the Bank from twenty millions and a half at the outset, to fifteen millions in October, the rate was raised to 5 per cent., and a considerable check thereby given to commercial enterprise.

The *Mark Lane Express*, as the exponent of the grain trade, states that—

At the opening of the year the prevailing belief was that prices of grain would undergo a material advance. This impression was caused mainly by the acknowledged fact that the autumn seed-time had proved exceedingly unfavourable. So great a quantity of rain fell in the autumn and the early part of the winter that a large breadth of land intended for wheat could not be seeded, and the prospects for the succeeding crop were at that early period already viewed as precarious. Our merchants were consequently induced to purchase rather freely abroad during the winter months, and the weather proving very mild the Baltic ports remained open to a later period than usual. The re-opening of the navigation was also somewhat sooner than in ordinary seasons. Under these circumstances the break in the supplies from abroad, which had been calculated on, and on which the expectation of higher prices was partly based, did not take place; for, during the short time that the Baltic ports were closed by ice, we had liberal arrivals from the Mediterranean and Black Sea. The wheat trade, therefore, remained quiet throughout the month of January, and in February the rise in price did not exceed 1s. per quarter. In March we received large supplies from France, Spain, the Mediterranean, and America; and prices gave way about 2s. per quarter at the principal consuming towns. The weather about this time was tolerably auspicious for spring sowing, and the Lent corn was, on the whole, got in

well. A portion of the land which it had been impossible to seed in the autumn was devoted to other purposes, but part was sown with spring wheat. Throughout April business remained very inactive, and scarcely any change took place in quotations. May proved a trying month; the days' wind was constantly from the eastward, and though they were hot and sunny, the thermometer on several occasions sank to very nearly freezing point at night. That this did injury to the spring corn and grass lands cannot be questioned. It failed, however, to counteract the effect of large foreign arrivals, and prices of wheat gave way 4s. to 5s. per quarter at Mark-lane, reducing the value of good red, the growth of Essex and Kent, to 40s., and white to about 46s. per quarter. This was the lowest point; we are induced, therefore, to give the quotations, as the subsequent rise will then be more readily understood. The upward movement commenced in June. The weather experienced in that month was more favourable than it had been previously, but it had then been discovered that, large as had been the supplies, consumption had nearly kept pace with the same, and that a much smaller accumulation of stocks had taken place than might have been expected. The blooming time for wheat was unpropitious, and in July a considerable quantity of rain fell, the effect of which was a decided rise in prices, and by the end of the month wheat was selling at Mark-lane 10s. per quarter higher than it might have been bought at in May. Other articles participated in the upward movement; the nominal top price of flour, which had previously stood at 47s., was put up to 50s. per sack; and spring corn of all descriptions advanced in proportion. In the early part of August, harvest was commenced, in the southern and forward parts of the kingdom, under favourable auspices; at about the same time liberal supplies of grain reached our shores from various foreign ports. The immediate effect of this was a sudden decline, and, in the first fortnight, wheat receded 7s. to 8s. per quarter. Complaints began then to be current respecting the yield of wheat, and, as cutting progressed, these became more numerous; the downward movement was consequently checked, and, before the close of the month, about 4s. per quarter of the decline had been recovered. The advance subsequently was rapid; the weather soon became decidedly unfavourable. Only a very small portion of the wheat was carted in good order, and a great quantity was badly injured by wet. Meanwhile, the increased wants of France had caused buyers thence to appear in the English markets, which, with the conviction that the deficiency in the produce of wheat would prove very serious, caused great excitement and an important rise. The opening prices for new wheat at Mark-lane were 52s. to 56s. for red, and 58s. to 63s. per quarter for white. Before the end of September, the same qualities had been sold respectively at 63s. to 68s., and 68s. to 75s.; indeed, for picked samples of white, 80s. per quarter had been realised. English flour rose 10s. per sack, and American 3s. to 5s. per barrel, in the course of a few weeks. A temporary calm succeeded, and in the beginning of October a reaction to the extent of about 2s. per quarter took place in the value of wheat; so well, however, had the deficiency of

the crop by this time been ascertained, that this moderate concession sufficed to encourage buyers to extend their operations, and the fall was almost immediately recovered. In November there was very little change; buyers were, in general, satisfied to confine their operations to such quantities as they required for immediate use; and, the supplies from abroad being liberal, the tendency of prices was, on the whole, downwards. We have now brought the fluctuations down to the present month. December commenced rather quietly, but a sudden increase in the export demand gave a fresh impetus to the upward movement. The rise since the close of November may be fairly estimated at 5s. to 7s. per quarter on all descriptions of wheat; and, if we compare present quotations with those current in May, the rise will be found to amount to 35s. to 40s. per quarter. That this could not have occurred with free trade, if the deficiency in the last crop had not been very serious in several of the principal continental wheat-growing countries, as well as in Great Britain, is certain; and this being admitted, it is not easy to fix a limit to the rise."

SAVINGS' BANKS.

WE have received the following communication from a correspondent on the important question of the proposed alteration in the Savings' Banks system, and have given it more than ordinary prominence, because we consider the points brought forward are well worthy of notice. There can be no doubt but that the discussion entered into last session will have prepared the government for several of the desired modifications in any new measure they may be prepared to submit for legislative sanction.

As the time for the opening of Parliament has now arrived, it is desirable to direct attention to a subject of considerable importance, viz., that of Savings' Bank reform. Even in the midst of warlike preparations, and at the opening of a session before which questions of a most vital nature will be brought, this question is considered to be so important as to call for the early attention of the legislature. It will be remembered that government last year attempted to bring in a bill or bills for the amelioration of the savings' bank system; but the proposed alterations were looked upon with so much disfavour, that both the original and amended bills were withdrawn, on the understanding that the necessary improvement would be subsequently arranged.

It is believed that the alterations suggested by the larger savings' banks were very favourably received, and it has been a matter of regret on their part that the bill, with the amendments proposed, did not become law. To the smaller savings' banks, however, it is

affirmed this regret does not extend, as it was generally conceived that the bill, even as modified, would have led to the closing of very many of those establishments. The restrictions proposed, while perfectly compatible with the ample means at the disposal of the larger banks, could not have been met by the smaller, unless at a cost which the difference of per centage allowed by the act would not have defrayed.

Now, it is quite evident, if the savings' bank system is to be maintained at all, it should be on such a sound basis as will admit of extension, so as to carry it into all the districts of the country. It will not suffice to legislate for the leviathan establishments alone. If any benefit is conferred on the country by the savings' bank system, it should be encouraged on all hands. Indeed, the large establishments require less legislative support, and are better able, on account of their extent of business, to support a more efficient establishment, and to proportionately increase their sphere of usefulness.

For instance, a savings' bank of £20,000 deposit money, which requires the full work of one officer, will only have £100 of difference of per centage, at the highest rate allowed; whereas, a bank with £200,000, which would not require the services of more than four or five officers, if so many, would yield about £1,000 at that rate. The emoluments of the latter would, therefore, either be much larger than the former, or a smaller per centage would be taken, and the depositors would get the benefit. Such is the actually the case. While the smaller banks are generally paying £2 15s. per cent., the larger are paying £2 17s. 9d. and £3 per cent., and have, after all, a larger sum left for the remuneration of those employed than that possessed by the smaller ones.

Apart from this, however, a point necessary to be taken into account in a new bill is, that nothing should be done which would unintentionally be hurtful to any of the establishments now in existence, or a hindrance to the opening of others. As is before observed, the bills of last session would have done so. By those, two courses were provided. In the first, the security of government was to be given to the depositor; but the trustees and managers were to cease connection with the savings' banks altogether, and the bank was to be entirely conducted by a government officer. This certainly appears an erroneous policy. The poor, and in many cases the ignorant (and they compose the bulk of the smaller savings' bank depositors), would not have been satisfied with such a system of management. A mere government receiving officer would have appeared to them unsubstantial. The country savings' banks are much benefited by the adherence and support of the gentlemen who act as the trustees and managers; and there is many a depositor who dates his first deposit and subsequent frugal habits to the counsel and advice of a local manager. It would, therefore, operate injuriously to do away with such a useful adjunct to the institutions.

By the other course, when the valuable services of the trustees and managers were to be retained, it was to be necessary that, besides the treasurer, there should be present at the bank, to verify each transaction, a trustee or manager, or officer holding a procuration from that

body. As it could not be expected from a trustee to give his constant and unremitting attention, the alternative of a substitute would in most cases be adopted, and thus two or more officials would have been required for each establishment; and those only now capable of supporting one, must either have been closed, or have been conducted at an expense beyond their means.

These, and several of the other alterations, were really not required. All that is wanted—but that imperatively—is, for the government to interpose their security the moment the money is received from the depositor; and this could be done with the utmost safety under the present system, with ordinary checks.

When the savings' banks were commenced, and till late years, it was understood that the deposits were on government security; else, why are the establishments all styled national security savings' banks? It is fallacious to talk of the commissioners being only responsible for the funds deposited with them. If that were the extent of the government's security, where was the necessity of their taking bonds from the officials for the faithful discharge of their duties?

But, whatever interpretation may be put upon the present law, it is evident that no new law will be satisfactory that does not open with the leading clause of security to the depositor, when the deposit is received at the bank. Depositors are now aware, and many of them unfortunately to their painful experience, that the safety of their funds at present does not depend upon the stability of the government, but upon the probity and honesty of the officials and managers of the banks. Hence the uneasiness when any rumours are afloat, and the readiness of the public to believe in them, and to cause a run on the banks. Such would not be the case, because there would be no fears did government, acting as it ought, and as it used to be thought it did, interpose its security from the very commencement.

It has been said the government could not be expected to give their security in this manner with safety to themselves, without the vexatious checks proposed in the last bill. This is quite a mistake. Transactions of much larger amount, and of a more complicated nature, are managed in this country with perfect safety, and with little chance of fraud being continuously successful, or even beyond a very small extent. The ordinary banks of the country never meet with loss from the source dreaded by the government. The latter themselves seldom meet with a loss through their own post-office system, which is much more complicated and liable to abuse. Why, then, they should more dread loss through the savings' banks, or fear to encounter the risks, which are, after all, not so great, is altogether inexplicable.

The government was certainly willing, last year, to become responsible on certain terms; these, however, were not only vexatious, but entailed a complete subversion of the system under which the savings' banks have flourished and been so beneficial. Of course, it is quite necessary that the government should assume to itself most ample protection; but it is not for the interest or the furtherance of savings' banks that the present *modus operandi* should be materially interfered

with, excepting so far as relates to the recognition of the principle that the government is responsible for all funds when received from depositors. Leave to the trustees and managers the guiding power of the savings' bank in their own district. As salutary checks, there can be no harm in the following arrangements:—The commissioners to have the approval of the officers appointed by the managers; the principal officers to give security satisfactory to the commissioners, and to be responsible for intrusions with the funds, and the accuracy of the accounts; the appointment by themselves of resident auditors unconnected with the bank, and the appointment of several itinerant inspectors to go from bank to bank to inspect and report thereon.

It is the opinion of some that the savings' bank system should not be encouraged; but any such feeling cannot be attributed to the government. Savings' banks are well worthy of the support of a wise government—not a niggardly, bare, or tacit acknowledgement, but a support of the most liberal nature, with the view of fostering habits of industry and economy among the labouring classes.

MONMOUTHSHIRE AND GLAMORGANSHIRE BANK.

The official managers, appointed to examine into the affairs of the late Monmouthshire and Glamorganshire Banking Company, have issued the following report:—

“The official managers believing the time has arrived when the position of the affairs of the company should be made known to the shareholders at large, and being anxious to relieve the minds of those shareholders who have paid the full amount of the call of sixty pounds from any impression that a further call will be required, beg to present the annexed statement, by which it will be seen that, according to the estimate of the outstanding assets, such a necessity is highly improbable, and that it may be reasonably anticipated a return will eventually be made to the above class.

This company was established under the provisions of the Joint-Stock Bank Act, 7th Geo. IV., c. 46, in the year 1836, with a nominal capital of £500,000, in 25,000 shares of £20 each; of these 19,237 were issued; the total paid-up capital at the suspension amounted to £220,639.

As it is already known, the improvident and unjustifiable advances made to several parties led to the loss of the whole of the capital, and to the stoppage of the bank, it is unnecessary further to advert to these circumstances.

Immediately after the suspension of the bank, on the 7th of October, 1851, a meeting of the shareholders was called, when it was ascertained the liabilities of the company amounted to upwards of £800,000, and a committee was appointed to investigate the affairs, in conjunction with one previously nominated by the creditors. The labours of the joint committees resulted in an arrangement by which nearly the whole of the unsecured creditors very handsomely and generously consented to receive a composition of fifteen shillings in the pound in full satisfaction of their claims, on condition that five shillings in the pound was paid immediately, and the remainder by instalments within two years. Upon this being effected, a fund, amounting to £101,734 3s. 9d., was raised by a portion of the shareholders, out of which the first instalment, with 1s. 8d. in the pound, in addition, from other assets, was forthwith paid;

and at the same time 572 depositors, whose accounts did not exceed £20, were paid in full.

This important step having been matured, an order was made by his Honour the Master of the Rolls, on the petitions of several parties, to wind up the company under the operation of the Joint-Stock Companies' Winding-up Act, and Master Farrer, who had charge of the matter, on the 13th of January, 1852, confided to the official managers the further management of the bank affairs.

At that date the liabilities of the company were £606,450 12s. 6d., and upon a careful consideration of the value of the assets, and of the probable means of the shareholders, it was found a sum of £60 per share was requisite, and a call to that extent was accordingly made by the Master on the 27th of April, 1852. The favourable realisation of assets, and the ready response, with some few exceptions, of the shareholders, have enabled the official managers to meet the instalments as they became payable, and the managers have the pleasure to announce that they will be prepared to pay the final instalment at the appointed time, when the creditors who accepted the composition to the amount of about £329,000 will have been satisfied, and the large sum of £83,057 18s. 5d. gained to the shareholders in the short space of two years, besides the reduction which has taken place in other liabilities to the extent of £149,793 12s. 4d., an achievement unparalleled in any case of bankruptcy or insolvency.

It will be seen by the statement that much remains to be done towards settling the affairs of the company, and that a considerable amount must be obtained from those contributories who have not as yet answered the call. The official managers rely with confidence on the honour and integrity of such parties, that they will meet their liabilities in common with the other shareholders.

The official managers assure the contributories the performance of their duties has been to them a source of unceasing anxiety and labour; they have entered into compromises with a large number of contributories, and others are in progress; in all these cases the official managers have endeavoured to mitigate the severity of the pressure, and to enable the parties to maintain their position, feeling confident that in so doing they were acting for the interests of the shareholders at large.

The official managers, from their experience of the Winding-up Act, express their conviction, that the most beneficial results have attended its application to this company, whereby alone equal and rateable contribution to the losses of the company, as partners, according to their respective interests therein, has been obtained. Great law expenses have been saved to the company, by reason of almost all the points of law in relation to banking companies and their shareholders having been raised and settled, particularly in the case of the North of England Joint-Stock Banking Company.

In conclusion, the official managers trust the annexed statement will be satisfactory to the contributories; they assure the shareholders they will not relax their exertions, and that they earnestly hope to bring the winding-up of this most disastrous and unfortunate concern to an early termination."

The following are the liabilities and assets of the bank :—

Liabilities.

	Jan. 12, 1852.	Sept. 30, 1853.
Due on current accounts	£122,160 9 8	£41,192 9 10
„ deposits	308,667 9 9	89,800 13 11
„ drafts and letters of credit on London agent	11,412 17 10	2,388 17 9
Carried forward	£442,240 17 3	£133,382 1 6

Brought forward ..	£442,240	17	3	£133,382	1	6
Due on circulation	1,100	0	0	990	0	0
„ to London and Bristol bankers ..	78,625	2	7	16,675	12	7
„ other agents	11,931	5	5	709	3	2
„ on bills of exchange in other hands	71,817	3	2	68,540	10	0
„ unpaid dividends	736	4	1			
„ to contributories who have paid more than the call of £60 per share				13,109	15	7
	£606,450	12	6	233,407	2	10

Deduct amount which will further be gained by creditors taking 15s. in the pound in full satisfaction of their claims, and to whom the last instalment of the composition, amounting to £26,437 10s. 8d. will be paid at the end of this year

79,312 12 0

154,094 10 10

Balance, being the amount of surplus over present liabilities (supposing the estimates per contra to be realised), out of which will have to be defrayed the further expenses of winding-up, interest to London bankers and to contributories who have paid in excess of the call of £60 per share

12,202 15 9

£166,297 6 7

Assets.

				Valuation.
				Sept. 30, 1853.
Current account, bills receivable and overdue	£31,206	11	11	
Agents' balances, and cash on hand	4,062	3	9	
Bills of exchange in other hands	49,350	10	11	
Estimated value of securities	40,853	0	0	
	125,472	6	7	
Estimated further amounts to be received from call of £60 per share	40,825	0	0	
	£166,297	6	7	

TRADE OF THE UNITED KINGDOM.

THE Board of Trade returns for the month ending the 5th of December were issued on the 4th of January, and show an increase in the declared value of our exportations greater, with one exception, than in any of the preceding months of the year; the difference, as compared with December 1852, being £1,595,730. The subjoined table exhibits the exact increase or decrease in each article; and it is to be remarked, that there is not a single item that does not show an augmentation, except some descriptions of raw material, of which the exportation is checked by the extent to which they are required by our own manufacturers. The articles presenting the largest augmentation are such as to indicate the continued activity of the colonial trade:—

DECLARED VALUE OF EXPORTATIONS.

Month ending Dec. 5.	1852.	1853.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
Alkali—viz., soda	23,740	40,491	16,751	—
Beer and ale	72,208	107,922	35,714	—
Butter	34,149	39,397	5,248	—
Candles	6,678	13,435	6,757	—
Cheese	7,155	8,647	1,492	—
Coals and culm	92,083	135,641	43,553	—
Cordage and cables	6,162	14,843	8,681	—
Cotton manufactures	2,045,735	2,240,902	195,167	—
Cotton yarn	604,222	686,121	81,899	—
Earthenware	92,171	130,976	38,805	—
Fish	61,797	63,368	1,571	—
Glass manufactures	27,956	49,506	21,550	—
Haberdashery and millinery	161,359	306,228	144,869	—
Hardware and cutlery	228,581	357,138	128,557	—
Leather	78,878	150,643	74,765	—
Linen manufactures	343,477	448,473	104,996	—
Linen yarn	111,460	90,358	—	21,102
Machinery	116,514	236,526	120,012	—
Metals	837,422	1,239,883	402,461	—
Oil and seeds	28,603	39,187	10,584	—
Painters' colours, &c.	16,838	28,949	12,111	—
Salt	14,232	26,297	12,065	—
Silk manufactures	104,614	113,180	8,566	—
Silk, thrown	31,314	22,920	—	8,394
Silk twist and yarn	17,822	16,326	—	1,496
Soap	18,450	24,363	5,913	—
Stationery	36,604	58,224	21,620	—
Sugar, refined	14,403	26,432	12,029	—
Wool, sheep or lambs'	61,778	41,755	—	20,023
Woollen manufactures	627,912	786,674	158,762	—
Woollen yarn	111,708	83,955	—	27,753
Total	6,033,030	7,628,760		

The aggregate value of our exports during the first eleven months of the year has been £80,784,515, against £65,280,134, in the like period of 1852, showing an increase of £15,504,381, or nearly 24 per cent., which has occurred in the following order:—

Month ending	Increase.
February 5	£1,410,060
March 5	919,097
April 5	1,486,818
May 5	2,309,995
June 5	1,187,553
July 5	1,003,637
August 5	1,405,918
September 5	1,426,500
October 10	1,446,708
November 5	1,312,360
December 5	1,595,730

As compared with the same period of 1851, there has been an increase of £17,470,243.

As regards the article of food imported and taken into consumption, the increase in breadstuffs has been chiefly in the shape of flour, owing to the supplies having been principally derived from America. Of provisions generally, the quantity taken has been large; salted meat, eggs, cocoa, tea, sugar, tobacco and wines, all indicating the increased purchasing power of the people generally, notwithstanding the deprivations sustained in particular districts from the strikes.

Subjoined are the quantities of provisions, &c., imported and taken for home consumption:—

Month ending Dec. 5.	Imported.		Home Consumption.	
	1852.	1853.	1852.	1853.
Grain, wheat, quarters ..	405,151	411,128	405,446	411,128
Grain of other descriptions, quarters.. ..	154,719	183,507	155,135	183,507
Indian corn, quarters ..	212,209	46,714	211,209	46,714
Flour and meal, cwt. ..	169,887	307,236	169,887	307,236
Provisions. — Bacon, pork, lard, &c., cwt. ..	17,305	19,147	Free.	Free.
Butter and cheese, cwt. ..	43,673	73,879	45,276	68,186
Animals, No. ..	31,317	77,050	Free.	Free.
Eggs, No. ..	5,836,118	7,165,071	5,836,118	7,151,181
Cocoa, lb. ..	271,598	601,443	240,777	414,642
Coffee, British, lb: ..	4,549,881	1,468,286	2,564,678	2,269,299
Ditto, foreign, lb... ..	1,534,138	608,391	944,472	731,029
Total coffee ..	6,084,019	2,076,677	3,509,150	3,000,328
Sugar—				
West India, cwt. ..	104,942	103,144	260,044	258,432
Mauritius, cwt. ..	31,479	193	90,783	59,062
East India, cwt. ..	112,440	116,624	117,521	107,126
Foreign, cwt. ..	53,686	144,977	54,258	166,027
Total sugar ..	302,547	364,938	522,606	590,647
Tea, lb. ..	2,659,467	2,727,649	3,920,539	4,707,287
Rice, cwt. ..	102,645	81,289	90,634	52,986
Spirits, gallons ..	906,743	706,448	462,123	456,604
Wines, gallons ..	607,796	1,337,012	515,413	600,716
Opium, lb... ..	55,274	21,761	4,083	8,004
Tobacco, lb. ..	9,583,584	11,048,405	2,381,719	2,511,542
Fruits.—Currants, figs, and raisins, cwt. ..	114,889	123,656	76,331	77,627
Spices, lb. ..	1,284,407	420,539	409,034	384,001
Ditto, cwt... ..	1,817	130	365	437

The following are the comparative imports and exports of raw material:—

Month ending Dec. 5.	Imported.		Exported.	
	1852.	1853.	1852.	1853.
Flax, cwt.	227,713	157,499	—	—
Hemp, cwt.	118,436	133,572	—	—
Raw silk, lb.	636,170	412,804	74,515	28,314
Cotton, cwt.	394,299	224,923	49,692	83,827
Wool, lb.	7,783,890	9,318,525	1,063,938	3,182,563
Tallow, cwt.	346,435	160,818	—	—

Of silk manufactures the totals stand thus :—

Month ending Dec. 5.	Imported.		Home Consumption.	
	1852.	1853.	1852.	1853.
Silk, manufactures of Europe, lb.	26,831	33,873	25,092	31,710
Ditto, of India, pieces	28,923	38,786	9,401	10,692

With respect to other articles there is not much to call for remark, except a large increase in the quantity of timber imported and used, and also in glass manufactures of all kinds.

THE BANK OF FRANCE.

THE *Moniteur* publishes the following monthly debtor and creditor account of the Bank of France, made up to the 13th of January :—

	DEBTOR.				F.	C.
Capital of the bank	..	..	..	..	91,250,000	0
Reserve of the bank	..	..	..	..	12,980,750	14
Reserve of the bank in landed property	..	..	..	..	4,000,000	0
Bank notes in circulation	..	..	..	..	501,619,200	0
Do. of the branch banks	..	..	..	..	141,496,675	0
Bank notes to order	..	..	..	..	6,891,204	63
Receipts payable at sight	..	..	..	..	9,000,178	0
Treasury account current, creditor	..	..	..	..	48,424,110	48
Sundry accounts current	..	..	..	..	126,316,024	18
Do. of the branch banks	..	..	..	..	26,461,242	0
Dividends payable	..	..	..	..	2,983,796	25
Discounts and sundry interests	..	..	..	..	1,302,372	75
Rediscounted during the last six months	..	..	..	..	1,289,106	12
Received on account of protested bills	..	..	..	..	24,616	44
Sundries	..	..	..	..	976,108	8
					F.975,015,379	7

	CREDITOR.	F.	C.
Cash in hand		201,693,441	94
Do. in the branch banks		93,195,767	0
Commercial bills overdue		473,778	78
Commercial bills discounted, but not yet due, of which 69,190,116f. were received from the branch banks		188,370,047	22
Do. in the branch banks		214,395,367	0
Advanced on a deposit of bullion		1,412,400	0
Do. by the branch banks		2,526,093	0
Advanced on French public securities		31,657,036	10
Do. by the branch banks		11,289,119	0
Advanced on railway securities		63,210,000	0
Do. by the branch banks		19,352,824	0
Advanced to the state on the treaty of June, 1848		70,000,000	0
Government stock reserved		10,000,000	0
Do. disposable		55,453,580	37
Hotel and furniture of the bank		4,000,000	0
Landed property of the branch banks		3,837,039	0
Expense of the management of the bank and branch banks		62,790	0
Sundries		1,886,095	66
		<u>F.975,015,379</u>	<u>7</u>

Certified by the Governor of the Bank of France, Count D'ARGOUT.

It appears, by the preceding account, that the cash in hand has decreased since last month by 22,084,000f. The commercial bills discounted have decreased by 18,417,000f. The advances on French public securities have increased by 1,957,000f. The advances on railway securities have decreased by 12,248,000f. The bank notes in circulation have increased by 10,021,000f. The balance to the credit of the Treasury has decreased by 10,948,000f. The sundry credits have decreased by 3,922,000f.

Communications

To the Editor of the Bankers' Magazine,

LETTERS OF CREDIT.

SIR,—I desire to avail myself, for the first time, of one of the many advantages possessed by subscribers to your magazine—namely, the opinion of the editor and his correspondents on matters of banking interest. May I therefore submit the following queries to you and your readers:—

1.—Respecting letters of credit, and the new drafts to order on demand.

Is it your opinion that the "letter of credit" (an evasion of a law no longer worth evading) has now become superseded by the new draft to order on demand? or, do you consider that a difference of security in the remission of money still exists between the two instruments, in favour of the former, which will insure its perpetuation—the new law distinctly freeing the payers from all risk regarding the latter, if rightly indorsed? And,—

2. Respecting bankers' liability to the stamp laws, by virtue of—

A. Their ordinary letters of acknowledgment for remittances, &c.

B. Their "advices" to parties on whose account they have received remittances, when desired by the remitters; and,

C. The insertion in their clients' bank books (or "pass-books" to use an ordinary phrase) of the names of parties by whom sums have been placed to their credit.

I will only enlarge on letter A of these heads, and further ask your opinion as to whether you consider all the subjoined forms of acknowledgment exempt?—numbers 1, 2, and 3 of which being framed so as to avoid mention of the fact of the sums received being placed to the credit of any party, though retaining (by way of recapitulation of the letter of remitter) allusion to the account for which the remittance has been made.

1.

Gentlemen,—We have to acknowledge receipt of your letter of containing value £..... which you direct us to place to credit of.—We remain, &c.

2.

Gentlemen,—We have to acknowledge receipt of your letter of containing value £..... on account of. We remain, &c.

3.

Gentlemen,—Your letter of directing us to place to credit of the remittance therein contained, value has been duly received.—We are, gentlemen, &c.

4.

Gentlemen,—Your favour of containing value £..... has been duly received. Noting your instructions as to its application,—We remain, &c.

5.

Gentlemen,—We have received yours of enclosing value £..... with which we shall do the needful, in conformity with your directions.—We remain, &c.

By favouring me with the number of the form you most approve of, as well as any information you can afford me on the other points referred to, I shall feel much indebted. I enclose my card, and am, sir,

Bank, Henry Street, Dublin,

Your obedient servant, R. B. C.

Nov. 26, 1853.

[1.—We have not heard that the old letter of credit is at all superseded by the new draft to order on demand. There seems to us to be greater security in the transmission of money by letters of credit, than by the new draft to order on demand; but time and experience are required to form a decided opinion on the point.

2.—Notwithstanding the published views of the Commissioners of Inland Revenue, we do not think any of the specimens of letters given by our correspondent require to be stamped.]

RELATIVE POSITION OF JOINT-STOCK AND PRIVATE BANKS.

SIR,—Having perused the letters contained in the two last numbers of your excellent magazine, emanating, as their composition doth prove—the first from the private bank advocate, and the second from its powerful opponent, the joint-stock bank, I would beg to trespass on your liberality, as a constant reader, to make a few remarks on the two systems.

It is in the country towns that the private banker reigns paramount, and exhibits those great advantages spoken of by your first correspondent. It is there that he is to be found exercising that power daily behind his counter,

doling out, to the best of his own personal judgment, the amount of cash at his command, in making advances and discounting bills. Farmer Brown knows full well, that when he makes an application for a temporary loan, or tenders his note on his neighbour Jones, for discount at such a bank, his suspense of mind, if any, will not be for any long period—say, at the most, scarcely exceeding a few hours—and that the end of that time will find him rejoicing with success, or, with a gloomy and disappointed countenance, seeking the accommodation elsewhere. But again, we will suppose him ascending the steps of the joint-stock bank, and ushered into the manager's private office; and there Brown unfolds his proposal, which he delivers in that straightforward blunt style for which our English farmer is justly celebrated; he has made, or has the assurance of making, a purchase which is certain, he says, of yielding him at least £50 per cent.; he has plenty of other property, but does not wish to part with any of it at present, the markets not being suitable. The branch manager believes it all—aye, knows he can rely upon its being truth; he has not the least particle of doubt on his mind of the safety of acceding to such a proposal, but he also knows full well that it would be disobeying orders to do so on his own responsibility, and bring down censure from the directors. He therefore craves farmer Brown's bounty for a few days, and meanwhile dispatches a letter to the head office on the subject, and perhaps giving them his opinion on the matters. After some delay, during which farmer Brown's patience is well nigh exhausted, the answer comes, and such an answer that will damp all his chance of success there, and allow the branch manager little hope of retaining farmer Brown's name amongst his list of customers—the answer being that the directors, taking a different view of the matter, decline the proposal without further security, which security Brown indignantly refuses to give; and so he toddles off to the rival bank, which happens to be a private concern, and there he meets with better success—or, at all events, a ready answer. No one can deny the truthful old proverb (quoted by your correspondent) that two heads are better than one; but then it is the delay of bringing these heads together. Why, in some of our large towns, such a delay would rain down half-a-dozen unpaid acceptances, dishonouring the firm, and perhaps destroying their credit for ever. And this I consider is the only superiority that the private has over our joint-stock system, but that it is a drawback no one, I think, can help admitting; excessive stringency must as sure prove an injury as unbounded liberality. And, in my humble views, until directors remove this obstacle by putting greater confidence in their general or branch managers, and allowing them a larger margin to their own discretion, they must be content, as the advocate for the private system says, to take the milk while their opponents run away with the cream. Your correspondent also admits that, as a fact of public confidence, the joint-stock bank enjoys the majority of a class of customers who keep large and *quiet* balances, not for accommodation only, but also for security. No doubt he meant credit balances; and who on earth dreamt of such parties asking for accommodation? and though such accounts, especially at a time like the present, are not to be despised, yet the banker who depended on them for his profits would exhibit a very vacant credit balance-sheet, and would, vulgarly expressed, soon have to shut up shop. What use or benefit would his deposits and paid-up capital be to him; and what account so profitable as that enjoying an occasional safe over-draft and pressing good current bills for discount?

These are my opinions, which I must allow are but young, but am aware you will not discard them on that account; perhaps you may honour a portion with insertion.

I remain, your most obedient servant,

X. Y. Z.

POPULAR DELUSIONS RESPECTING BANKS AND BANKING.

SIR,—There is a very prevalent opinion among the public, that, when a banking company builds for its accommodation a handsome new office, or otherwise employs its money in such a manner as to be brought immediately under the eye of the public, the funds are taken from unclaimed dividends or moneys in the bank's hands. Now, as this very erroneous idea is entertained to a considerable extent in this part of the country, particularly as regards the magnificent new edifices erected of late years by some of our banking companies in Edinburgh and Glasgow, it may not be out of place, through the medium of your widely-circulated magazine, to let those who labour under this delusion know how and where banks get the money they employ for these or any other purposes.

To go very simply to work, suppose a bank with a capital of £500,000, and paying a dividend thereon of 6 per cent., has of deposit money £3,000,000

Lying at the rate of 2 per cent. (say) and that of this sum there are lent out on discounts, loans, &c., at an average rate of 4 per cent. 2,500,000

There will remain a surplus of deposits of 500,000

Which, being also invested, and yielding (say) $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., will give per annum 16,250

The discounts, &c., as above, at 4 per cent. on £2,500,000 .. 100,000

To which add commissions, &c., charged by the bank .. 5,750

This yields a total income of 122,000

But from which must be deducted, interest paid to

depositors, at the rate of 2 per cent., on £300,000,

as above £60,000

Dividend due to proprietors or shareholders .. 30,000

Expenses, salaries, bad debts, &c .. 22,000

112,000

There remains a clear profit of £10,000

at the end of the year, exclusive of any portion of the capital of £500,000, which we will suppose as kept idle, and to supply the bank till, in case of any large demands. Now this profit of £10,000, which is small compared with what many banks make, arises in as fair and honourable a manner as any merchant's can—and, indeed, perhaps fairer, seeing that bankers cannot adulterate money, or make any additional gain by mixing the commodities they deal in. When banking, therefore, is carried on successfully, as it generally is under prudent management, a very few years suffice to form a very large sum at the credit of their reserve fund; and bankers accordingly cannot make a better investment of their profits, than by building handsome and commodious premises for themselves; and it would also be an additional good investment were many of them to employ some of their surplus in paying a higher remuneration to their clerks, through whose attention and politeness to the wants of the public, the profits are often considerably indebted.

There is another delusion under which a great proportion of the public labour, particularly ignorant country people, and which I have frequently found in my own experience, namely—that if any one, in transacting with a bank teller, is paid too much by mistake, the overpayment becomes their own, because, as they suppose, the teller, from a fear of losing his situation by his

apparent carelessness, would rather let the money go, than have his error exposed. Now this prevalent and most erroneous idea, doubtless, arises from a supposition that the bank, which is looked upon by such people as nobody, can well afford the overpayment, and never miss it; whereas, on the contrary, when the teller or cashier's money is found short by so much, he has to refund the deficiency from his own pocket. When the sum deficient is large—as, for instance, in giving away by mistake a £5, £10, £20, or £100 note too much, or in place of one of smaller value—it becomes a very serious matter for the bank teller, as he has to pay a loss, which is just the same to him as if he had got it stolen from him out of the bank altogether.

Trusting these remarks may assist in dispelling such notions from the minds of any who have hitherto misunderstood these matters,

I am, sir, your obedient servant,

Edinburgh, 19th Dec., 1853.

W.

REMEDY ON DRAFT REFUSED PAYMENT.

SIR,—If I properly understand the question of Z A, in your last number, my opinion is decidedly opposed to yours there expressed.

I presume Z A holds a draft on London drawn by C D, bankers at Hull, properly indorsed; but some dispute having arisen between the party who obtained the draft and the person to whom he paid it, he instructed C D not to pay the draft. I should merely suggest to Z A, to take the draft to his solicitor, who, I have no doubt, will give him the amount, and find ways and means to repay himself—were I a solicitor, I would do so.

In case of a lost or stolen bank-note, the issuing banker is compelled to pay it to an innocent party, which, I think, is a stronger case for refusal than the one above quoted.

A customer of mine lately had a similar case, as above, of a draft made payable to himself, which I presented through my London Agents, and had it returned—answer, “orders not to pay.” Out of courtesy, I sent it to the issuing bank, who returned it to me, with the answer, “payment stopped by the person who obtained the draft.” I returned it to my customer, who placed it in the hands of his solicitor, who wrote to the issuing bank, and, by return of post, had a remittance for the amount.

For my own part, I cannot see what dispute can affect the rights of a third party.

I am, sir, your obedient servant.

A SUBSCRIBER.

8th December, 1853.

[It is true, as “A Subscriber” remarks, that the issuing banker may be compelled to pay the draft, which we assume to be negotiable, to an innocent holder, and we did not state this in our former answer. But, there is no remedy against the bankers upon whom the draft is drawn. The draft referred to in the former letter is stated to be in the hands of E F (the payee), and the party charged, by A B, with some irregularity, and not therefore an innocent holder.]

LETTERS ACKNOWLEDGING REMITTANCES.

SIR,—A question having arisen as to the legality of a banker acknowledging the receipt of a remittance, by post, from a client, in the following form:—“I have received the favour of your letter, dated 13th instant, enclosing (to be placed to your account) cheque for £100,”—I shall feel obliged by your stating if you consider such an acknowledgment as an infringement of the Stamp Act.

No doubt whatever exists on my own mind, as to its perfect legality, upon the principle that the exemption in favour of bankers' receipts is equally applicable to a receipt in this form; but it has been maintained that, not only is a banker acting illegally in acknowledging a remittance, by letter, for the credit of a third party (a view clearly correct), but that it is *equally* so to make use of the above form.

I may remark, that more than one of the London bankers are still in the habit of introducing a third name into their acknowledgments of remittances by letter, notwithstanding the plain declaration of the the act on this point.

Kindly state your views on this subject in your next publication, and oblige,

Sir, your very obedient servant,

F. W. N.

Royal Bank of Ireland, Dublin, 16th Dec., 1853.

[Our views quite concur with those of our correspondent.]

WHO ARE BANKERS?

SIR,—Your correspondent, a "constant reader," asks "who are bankers?" "Does the law recognise any person or persons as bankers, who do not take out a license?" if he will refer to 7 and 8 Victoria, c. 32, s. 21, he will find "That every banker in England and Wales, who is now carrying on, or shall hereafter carry on business as such, shall, on the 1st of January in each year, or within fifteen days thereafter, make a return to the Commissioners of Stamps and Taxes, at their head office in London, of his name, residence and occupation, &c., &c., under a penalty of £50." The Act further provides that the Commissioners of Stamps and Taxes shall, on or before the 1st of March in each year, publish the returns in some newspaper, circulating within each town or county in which the banker carries on his business.

A banker therefore has a clear legal definition; and no cheque or draft upon a person not registered according to the requirements of this Act, should be issued or received, unless it bears a penny draft stamp.

Your obedient servant,

M.

Lombard Street, 6th January, 1854.

CIRCULATION OF COUNTRY BANKS.

SIR,—I doubt not that, for a long time past, very many of your subscribers among the country bankers have been much inconvenienced by the limited circulation of notes allowed to them under the last Bank Act, and have had difficulty in meeting the demands of their customers, although using all and sundry notes that came into their hands; and have often had to pay away large sums in gold and Bank of England notes, with which, perhaps, they had been able to supply themselves at considerable trouble and expense.

Most country bankers would be glad if some new regulation were made with government as to their circulation, so that, at times, when the trade and necessities of the country required it, an increase of their issues might be allowed under safe and proper restrictions; and I hope that an attempt to obtain such a benefit as this will be made by the combined efforts of both private and joint-stock banks throughout the country, if not sooner, at all events when a removal of the Bank of England Charter comes to be considered by the legislature, in the course of next year.

Why should English banks not have the privilege of issuing in excess of their authorised circulation against a stock of gold and silver on hand, as is permitted to the Scotch banks? or against a guarantee holding of government securities (as exchequer bills, &c.), an arrangement which would suit banks on both sides of the Tweed, much better than keeping stocks of specie, which not only yield no return, but also require trouble and outlay to replenish them?

Or, should Parliament still incline to favour the Bank of England, and decree that any extension of the circulation of the kingdom should only be made in its notes, might not country bankers be permitted to issue in excess of their own notes, the notes of that establishment, and be allowed, upon the amount of those so issued, the premium of one per cent., given to banks who regularly issue Bank of England notes?

If you think these lines worthy of a place in your useful magazine, an insertion of them will oblige,

Your very obedient servant,

Yorkshire, 21st January, 1854.

SCOTUS.

BANKERS' DRAFTS ON DEMAND, AND THE PENNY STAMP.

SIR,—Will you be so good as to inform me, in your next number, whether bankers who compound for stamps, under the "Act of George 4th, cap. 23," can continue to issue drafts on demand on unstamped paper, as before?

The pamphlet, published by authority of the Commissioners of Inland Revenue, as an explanation of the new Stamp Act, leads me to infer that all drafts payable *to order on demand*, require a penny stamp.

Derby, 24th Nov., 1853.

I remain, sir, yours truly,

A BANKER'S CLERK.

[We do not think the new Stamp Act repeals the privilege referred to.]

RECEIPT FOR PART OF DEPOSIT.—IS A STAMP NECESSARY?

SIR,—The bank in which I am engaged has issued the following form of deposit receipt, with the sanction of the Board of Inland Revenue.

No. Z		DEPOSIT RECEIPT.	
		A. & B. Banking Co.,	
		A 185	
Entered	:	Received of Mr.	..
	:	the sum of	to be
	:	accounted for after 30 days' notice, with interest at the rate of	
	:	 per cent. per annum, if the principal shall have been	
	:	in our hands three months.	
		For the Board of Directors,	
		 Manager.	
	£		

Supposing a receipt in this form to be given for £100, would the Bank be right in paying a part of the principal without a *stamped* receipt on the back?

On referring to page 5 of the "Popular Explanation," you will see that, "Receipts written upon promissory notes, bills of exchange, drafts or orders for the payment of money, duly stamped, are exempt from duty."

And again—

"A receipt, on an unstamped cheque, for the contents, is not valid without a receipt stamp."

The question I ask, then, is this—

Is a receipt given on the back of a banker's deposit receipt for part of the contents liable to stamp duty?

I say, "part of the contents," because, if the whole were paid, the possession of the receipt itself would be all the banker required for his indemnity.

I am, sir, your obedient servant,

Dec. 9th, 1853.

A CASHIER.

[We think a receipt stamp is necessary. The banker should cancel the old receipt, and grant a fresh one for the altered amount, and then he would save the duty; or he should take a cheque from the depositor. We thought these were the usual courses adopted with regard to this matter.]

SIR,—A form of receipt, similar to the enclosed, was sent to the Stamp-office, to inquire as to its legality, and the answer was, "Must be stamped with the 1d. receipt stamp." Now, I cannot understand why it requires a stamp, as, on reference to the "Popular Explanation," published by authority of the Commissioners of Inland Revenue, I find, at p. 7, "The exemption in favour of these notes is not affected by reason of their containing any stipulation that the money is not to be withdrawn for a specified period, or without notice."

What are we to understand from this, but that bankers may state the rate of interest allowed, and the notice required also; which opinion appears confirmed by the copy of Mr. Keogh's letter contained in your last number, in which he states, "Documents of the description enclosed by you are exempt from stamp duty."

Perhaps, sir, you may think it worth while to ascertain why the enclosed form requires a stamp?

You will observe this is very similar to the one inserted in your November number.

I am, dear sir, yours, &c.,

(In haste)

A CONSTANT READER.

15th Dec., 1853.

[FORM A.]

No. Bank. £
 Received of
 the sum of
 for which we are accountable, with interest at the rate of 3 per cent. per annum, requiring 21 days' notice before withdrawal (or having 21 days' notice when wanted).

For BULLION and Co.

N.B.—Interest on deposit accounts made up and payable 31st — and 30th —.

[FORM B.]

No. Deposit Note.
 Received of
 the sum of pounds,
 for which we are accountable, with interest at the rate of per cent. per annum.

N.B.—This sum cannot be withdrawn, unless days' notice to that effect shall have been given, from the date of which notice (when this receipt will be

accepted) interest on the same will cease; but it shall be optional on the part of Messrs. W—— and Co. to pay the amount, if required, on demand, deducting however, in that case days' interest. No interest will be due unless the money has been three months in the bank, and no money can be withdrawn without the production of this receipt.

the day of, 18 .

£

N.B.—Interest on deposit accounts made up and payable 31st March and 30th September.

We have now sent a form to our printers, to be used *without a stamp*. I think it a good one, viz. :—

[FORM C.]

No. Bank. 185 . £

Received of
the sum of pounds,
to be accounted for with interest at the rate of per cent. per annum.

*The money not to be withdrawn without 21 days' notice.

For —— and Co.

N.B.—Interest made up and payable

[We have marked the three forms sent by our correspondent with the letters A, B and C. We think the form B may be liable to duty. It contains a long memorandum, which may be construed to amount to a special agreement on matters not allowed by the exemption. We can see no fault in the forms A and C. The only reasons we can find for holding A liable to stamp duty are that the words "for which we are to be accountable" are used, instead of the words "to be accounted for," which occur in the forms the commissioners have approved, and that the time when the interest is payable is stated. We must see with the eyes of the commissioners before we can be convinced that these reasons are sufficient to require a duty.]

LETTER TO BANKER.—DRAFT STAMP.

SIR,—I would feel obliged by your stating whether you conceive a banker would be justified in charging his customer's account with his acceptance, if the letter desiring him to do so be dated from and posted at a place more than fifteen miles distant, and not stamped—in short, whether a letter sent *direct* to a banker, requesting him to operate on a customer's account, would come under the head of a draft issued, and require a penny stamp to render it a legal document.

I am, your most obedient servant,

Kilkenny, 12th Dec., 1853.

G. H. J.

[We think such a letter would be a mere request, and not a draft, and that it would not require a stamp.]

BANKERS' CLERKS' SALARIES AND THE PRICES OF PROVISIONS.

SIR,—Allow me, through the medium of your valuable pages, to suggest respectfully to the partners in private banks, and to the directors of joint-stock banks, that a bonus superadded to the salaries of the year that is gone, would be very acceptable to the various officers of their establishments, especially to the "*Paterfamilias*," whose salaries do not reach £250 a year.

* You will observe those are the words used in the pamphlet, at p. 7.

Profits during the past year ran high, as our directors and principals know to their satisfaction; and *provisions* and all sorts of needful things have run high too, as those for whom I venture to plead have known to their cost.

Your correspondent "Nemo," in this month's magazine, when urging that the clerks should have better salaries, says it appears that the managers' incomes vary from £1800 to £800 per annum. But is it not a fact that the professional incomes of vast numbers of country bank managers do not rise to £250, nor even to £200? These gentlemen (as well as clerks, married and unmarried,) must experience that the present dear times are rather trying ones to themselves and their families.

I am, sir, yours, &c.,

Jan. 16th, 1854.

HONESTAE.

BANK HOLIDAYS.

SIR,—Bank holidays, like many other privileges, are only partially carried out.

The Bank of England, and, I believe, the London banks generally, differ in this particular with the country banks; the former have their fixed holidays, while the latter have no fixed rule with respect to holidays, except Good Friday and Christmas day.

In advocating a wider extent of those privileges, I need not dwell on the advantages to the proprietors generally, for I think they would admit at once that an occasional holiday to them would be a relief from care and anxiety consonant with commercial life. Many of them, of course, can take a week's pleasure almost when they please, but this is not the case with their clerks, for I know bank clerks who have not had a single week's leave of absence for the last seven years, except one week during the Great Exhibition in 1851.

In Scotland, too, the bank holidays are more frequent than in England.

It is not, I think, unreasonable, inasmuch as the metropolitan and Scotch bank clerks enjoy more holidays than the country bank clerks do, for the latter to expect a week or ten days' leave of absence once every year; this might be done with a little arrangement without any inconvenience to the bank. And, as bankers generally are allowed to be men of business habits, men of high standing in society, men of undoubted integrity, and necessarily men of means and intelligence, I cannot for a moment doubt their willingness to grant their clerks such a boon.

In 1834, the holidays of the Bank of England were entirely abolished. And it is a curious incident in the history of holidays, that the very persons by whose solicitation they are stated to have been abolished, made, at a subsequent period, an application to have them restored.* However, be that as it may, it is pretty well known that the holidays at the Bank of England are not so numerous as they were originally. I think this proves, to some extent, that "our forefathers were wiser than their descendants; they knew that to grant their servants a recreation was to benefit themselves."

Bankers' clerks, as a body, are a highly-respectable class of men—men of business habits—men of strict integrity, and whose punctuality and trustworthiness is daily tested in the very nature of their occupation. I will admit that banking hours are not very long; but the principal part of a banker's clerk's time is given to his employers *every day, the year round* (holidays excepted), with a *steadiness of attention and care* that is observed in few other occupations. Ought such men to be pent up every day of their lives without an occasional relaxation of the frame? Is it not justice, as well as generosity, to grant them a week's respite or leave of absence once a-year?

* History of the Bank of England.

I fear I am encroaching too far upon your space, but the subject is of interest to many of my fellow-clerks, or I would not have devoted so much time to it. In conclusion, allow me to say that a day passed in the green fields in fresh air, amidst the melodious warbling of the feathered tribe from the orchestra of nature, and two or three days' ramble amongst the English lakes and other romantic scenery which abounds in various parts of the United Kingdom, or a few days spent at some of our gay and healthy watering-places, will produce in every rightly-disposed young man an increased desire as well as a capacity to serve; and, to let a man see that his welfare is cared for, will naturally cause him to regard the interests of his employer to a far greater degree.

I must apologise for the liberty I have taken, and

I am, sir, yours truly,

Lancashire, December, 1853.

A BANK CLERK:

THE HALF-YEARLY MEETINGS.

It will only be necessary to direct attention to the various reports of the joint-stock bank meetings which have been held in the course of January, to show the successful results of business during the year 1853. The London and Westminster and the London Joint-Stock Banks present accounts the most encouraging we ever remember to have witnessed; and we have no doubt that those to be rendered by the other establishments will appear equally satisfactory when they are published. The Union Bank of London has increased its rate of dividend to 10 per cent., but the report will not be forthcoming until July. The Commercial Bank make their exhibit about the same time. In the case of the London and County and the Royal British Banks, the shareholders will be shortly made acquainted with their true prospects, as these meetings will soon take place. The old questions connected with the position of guarantee funds, and the remuneration paid to *employés*, have occupied their customary share of attention; and in the latter respect it is gratifying to notice that the representations made have had due effect. The Australian Banks, it will be noticed, continue to make large dividends; while even the Colonial Bank, notwithstanding the drawbacks attending depressed trade and general embarrassment in the West Indies, has been enabled to increase its rate of distribution.

While on the subject of bankers' clerks' salaries, we think it will prove interesting to introduce the following note just received from Glasgow:—

SIR,—I have pleasure in communicating to you the agreeable intelligence that the directors of the City of Glasgow Bank have just now, spontaneously, made a very handsome advance of the salaries in their establishment here, the additions ranging in sums from £10 to £60. This, and the other banks in Glasgow have, during the past year, ex-

perienced great, and, perhaps, unprecedented prosperity; and it is a cheerful indication of the times, that the services of bank officers are now beginning to receive that due attention and recognition which they deserve—as in the instance I have mentioned.

I am, sir, your obedient servant,

T.

The patent fact of the prosperity of the great metropolitan banks is on all hands admitted, and it is at the same time in most quarters thought, that the remuneration to the officials should be proportionately advanced. The *Morning Post*, advocating the question on its broad basis, remarks:—

A few months since, on the representation contained in some letters which we received from persons employed in different joint-stock banks, we called attention to the general inadequacy of the remuneration of the clerks; and we now recur to the subject, because the meetings of the various companies are on the eve of being held, when the reports will show that, during the past year, banking business has been unusually prosperous; whilst all experience proves that the commodities of life have been much increased in value, without, we believe, any corresponding advance having been made in the remuneration of bank *employés*. Already has the Union Bank of London declared an increase in its dividend to the shareholders of 2 per cent., making that about to be paid no less than 10 per cent. per annum; but here, we believe, we must exempt this company from the charge of not properly remunerating its officers, as we are informed that the salaries average from 50 to 100 per cent. above those of other joint-stock banks. The London and Westminster and the London Joint-Stock Banks are represented to have been unusually flourishing during the past year; and though it is stated that the latter has advanced the pay of their clerks, and the former presented them with a bonus, still it is complained that the system of payment is by no means based upon a satisfactory foundation. The leading private bankers, it is well known, pay their servants with the greatest liberality, feeling that their own interest is promoted by the attention which their clerks pay to the customers and the general prosperity of the establishment. The responsibilities of a banker's clerk are far from light—a fact which may be judged of when we state, that the balances in the hands of the joint-stock banks of London amount to nearly £30,000,000. It is to be feared that directors, in their corporate capacity, have too often neglected the claims of their servants for the sake of earning popularity by the declaration of large dividends, many clerks remaining stationary for years, and large numbers, after fourteen or fifteen years' service, not receiving more than £150 per annum. It would be very desirable were some of the shareholders, at the meetings about to be held, to bring the subject in a definite shape under the notice of the directors, so that it might be fairly discussed, and the scale of remuneration placed upon a more uniform and satisfactory basis. A recent writer upon this subject says:—"In every post they (the clerks) are entrusted with a large amount of property, and upon their integrity

much reliance must at all times be placed. All these circumstances serve to show that, in fixing the amount of their salaries, the banker should be anxious to err (if he errs at all) on the side of liberality." And again, "But there is one principle we would enforce, that the salaries of the clerks should be regulated by the prosperity of the bank. If the bank is prosperous, the clerks ought to share in its prosperity; and if the bank is unfortunate, the clerks must share in its ill fortune. But, under any circumstances, a scale of salaries is desirable."

The necessity of some alteration in the system is more peculiarly apparent at the present moment, not only from the rise in the price of provisions during the past year, but from the extension of the income-tax to salaries of £100 per annum, which is felt more sensibly, perhaps, by bankers' clerks than by any other class of the community—they generally having, in addition, to pay large premiums to guarantee societies to secure their employers from loss. And it is evident, however deeply they may feel their position, these gentlemen, from education and habit, have not the means of protecting their own interests by any agitation, however peaceable, as such a course might not only be considered offensive to their employers, but detrimental to the confidence justly placed by the public in the stability of these institutions.

Reports of Joint-Stock Banks.

LONDON AND WESTMINSTER BANK.

THE annual meeting of the proprietors of this bank was held at the bank, Lothbury, on the 18th of January; Mr. T. Chapman in the chair.

The secretary read the report, which stated that, "after paying the income-tax, making provision for all bad and doubtful debts, setting apart £2,000 towards the new buildings in Lothbury and Bloomsbury, and presenting a gratuity of 10 per cent. on their salaries to all the officers of the establishment, the net profits of the last half-year amount to £61,617 4s. 9d. The directors declare a dividend for the half-year, at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum, and they also declare a bonus of 4 per cent. upon the paid-up capital. After these payments are made, the surplus fund will amount to £125,307 1s. 6d. The three directors who go out by rotation are Thomas Chapman, Esq., F.R.S., Joshua Walker, Esq., and Henry Buckle, Esq., all of whom, being eligible, offer themselves for re-election. The vacancy occasioned by the lamented death of Henry Harvey, Esq., has been supplied by the election of John Lewis Ricardo, Esq., M.P., subject to the confirmation of the present meeting."

London and Westminster Bank, December 31st, 1853.

Dr.—To proprietors for paid-up capital	..	..	£1,000,000	0	0
Amount due by the bank on deposits, circular notes, &c.	..	..	6,259,540	1	8
Rest or surplus fund	..	..	133,689	16	9
Net profits of the past half-year	..	..	61,617	4	9
			<u>£7,454,847</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>2</u>

Cr.—By government stock, exchequer bills, and India bonds	£1,468,902	10	0
Other securities, including bills discounted, loans to customers, &c.	5,194,245	2	1
Cash in hand.. .. .	791,699	11	1
	<u>£7,454,847</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>2</u>

Profit and Loss.

Dr.—To total expenditure of the six establishments, including rent, taxes, salaries, stationery, &c., with a gratuity of 10 per cent. on the salaries to the officers of the establishment	£24,623	4	9
Amount set apart towards the new buildings in Lothbury and Bloomsbury	2,000	0	0
Payment of the dividend now declared, at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum, for the last half-year on the paid-up capital of £1,000,000	30,000	0	0
Bonus of 4 per cent. on the capital	40,000	0	0
Balance of unappropriated profits	125,307	1	6
	<u>£221,930</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>3</u>

Cr.—By balance of unappropriated profits on the 30th June, 1853	£133,689	16	9
Gross profits of the last half-year, after paying the income-tax and making provision for all bad and doubtful debts	88,240	9	6
	<u>£221,930</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>3</u>

By balance of unappropriated profits brought down	£125,307	1	6
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The dividend and bonus (without deduction of income-tax) will be in course of payment on Monday, the 23rd instant.

The chairman, in moving the adoption of the report, reviewed the general movement of commerce in this country during the past year, and stated that it had been one not only of extended commerce, but so far, at least, as London was concerned, notwithstanding serious disturbing causes, one of general commercial prosperity. Looking a little at the affairs of this bank in the year 1851, the deposits were £4,677,000; in 1852 they were £5,581,000; in 1853 they amounted to £6,259,000; and the profits were, in 1851, £84,000; in 1852, 85,000; in 1853, £116,000. With regard to the appropriation of the money which had been earned—in the first place, he was quite sure the directors had rightly anticipated the concurrence of the shareholders in proposing that, amongst those to whose energy and ability the bank was indebted for its prosperity, there should be assigned a gratuity of 10 per cent. upon their salaries—(cheers); and, while not forgetting the understanding entered into by the proprietors, that the expense of the improvements in the Lothbury and Bloomsbury establishments should be spread over a series of years, they had thought it right to embrace the opportunity of setting apart £2,000 on that account, making £4,000 within the twelvemonth. Should adverse circum-

stances hereafter arise, the directors would feel themselves at liberty to pass over a year without making any appropriation under that head. They then gave the ordinary dividend of 6 per cent., which took £60,000, to which there was added a bonus of 4 per cent., making the sum total divided among the shareholders for the past year £100,000. (Hear.) They were still enabled to carry forward the sum of £16,000 to the rest. That sum might be thought a little more than was absolutely necessary; nor were the directors unmindful of the fact there was very little reciprocity on the part of posterity. (Laughter.) Still, considering that the last year had been a very favourable one, he trusted the proprietors would not think that too much had been added to the rest, although it now amounted no £125,307.

The motion having been seconded, —

Mr. Tite, while congratulating the shareholders on the increased prosperity of the bank, wished to say one word on the vexed question of the rest. With a capital of £1,000,000, and the power of raising £4,000,000 more, it could not be necessary, for the respectability or security of the bank, to have a rest of £125,000. (Hear.) The sole object of a rest was to equalise dividends. He admitted that 10 per cent. was a good dividend; but at the same time he saw no reason why the bonus on that occasion should not be 5 instead of 4 per cent. (Hear.)

Mr. Maudslay believed the course taken was the best for the proprietary. Another bank, with capital of only £600,000, had a rest of £150,000; and if there was to be any fixed sum in their own case, it should not be less than that amount.

Mr. Saintsbury said, the fact that they had a larger capital than £600,000 made it the less necessary that they should have a rest of £150,000. (Hear.)

Mr. Hodgkinson had long been of opinion that it was not necessary to go on increasing the rest. At present £100,000 was quite sufficient.

Mr. H. Baddeley having intimated his intention to move that the rest should not be increased,

Mr. Oliveira, M.P., hoped there would be no division. It would, he apprehended, satisfy all parties if the directors would mention some specific sum at which they thought the rest should stop.

The chairman said after the manner in which the question had been treated, the directors could not doubt what was the feeling of the proprietors. The £6,000,000 deposited by the public, and the £1,000,000 paid up by the proprietors, were ready, he had almost said at a moment's notice, to answer any call which might be made on the bank. But it must be borne in mind that the proprietors had not latterly been contented with a 6 per cent. dividend; they had got into the habit of expecting 8 per cent., and considering that the shares were this time last year worth £33, and were now worth £40, he could not help thinking that some of those who came in at the latter price might not consider 8 per cent. all they were entitled to. (Hear.) It was not, therefore, to add to the stability of the bank, but to prevent the fluctuation of dividends, that it was now proposed to increase the rest. The opinion of the shareholders, however, was no doubt entitled to the greatest respect; and he could assure the meeting that the directors would take the whole subject into their most serious consideration.

Mr. Tite having asked for a pledge on behalf of the board, that the rest should not exceed £125,000.

The chairman said he was quite unable to pledge the directors to any particular amount; but knowing as they did what was the opinion of the shareholders at large, he thought some satisfactory decision would be announced at the next meeting.

The report was then adopted.

Mr. Baddeley gave notice that at the next meeting he should move "That,

it is the opinion of this meeting that the balance of the appropriated profits, amounting to £125,307 *ls. 6d.*, as shown by the report issued to-day, is too large; consequently it is the opinion of this meeting that the rest in future should be £100,000, and no more.

The retiring directors, including the chairman, were re-elected; and Mr. J. L. Ricardo was chosen to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Mr. Harvey.

A vote of thanks was given to the directors for their management of the affairs of the company during the past year; and a similar acknowledgement was made of the services of Mr. J. W. Gilbert, the general manager, and the other officers of the company.

LONDON JOINT-STOCK BANK.

THE half-yearly meeting of the proprietors was held on the 19th January; Sir J. Duke, M.P., in the chair.

The secretary (Mr. Hewett) read the report for the half-year ending the 31st ult. It showed a net profit for the half-year of £50,695 *0s. 7d.*, to which was added £7,540 *3s.*, undivided profit of the previous half-year, making for present disposal, a total of £58,235 *3s. 7d.* Of this sum, £24,000 was applied to a dividend, after the rate of £8 per cent. per annum; £34,000 to a bonus of 1*ls. 4d.* per share; and the fractional remainder was carried to the guarantee fund. Mention was made of the loss by death of two members of the board, Mr. W. Shadbolt and Sir Richard Jenkins, G.C.B. Sir J. Duke, M.P., Mr. A. Hastic, M.P., and Mr. A. Moore, retired, it was stated, by rotation, and offered themselves for re-election. The vacancies caused by death would have to be filled up at an extraordinary meeting to be called for the purpose. The dividend and bonus were to be payable on and after Friday, the 27th inst.

The following is the balance-sheet:—

Liabilities and Assets, December 31st, 1853.

Dr.—To Capital paid up—viz., 60,000 shares at £10			
each	.. ..	£600,000	0 0
Amount due by the Bank	.. ..	5,010,623	12 1
Amount of the "The Guarantee Fund," June 30, 1853	.. ..	£148,812	12 2
Six months' interest on ditto, at £3 per cent. per annum	.. ..	2,232	3 9
		151,044	15 11
Undivided profit for the last half-year	..	7,540	3 0
Amount carried to profit and loss account		90,608	11 8
		£5,859,817	2 8
Cr.—By Exchequer-bills, India bonds, &c.			
Bills discounted, loans and cash	.. ..	£685,857	14 8
Building, furniture, &c., in Prince-street	..	£20,350	0 0
Ditto, in Pall Mall	..	8,875	0 0
		29,225	0 0
		£5,859,817	2 8

Profit and Loss account for the half-year ending December 31, 1853.

<i>Dr.</i> —To current expenses, proportion of building expenses, directors' remuneration, bad debts, income-tax, &c.				£17,602	1	1
Amount carried to profit and loss, new account, being rebate of interest on bills discounted not yet due				22,311	10	0
Amount transferred to the credit of the "Guarantee Fund," in addition to the above amount of £151 15s. 11d.				235	3	7
Dividend account for the payment of half-a-year's dividend, at the rate of £8 per cent. per annum upon £600,000, amount of paid-up capital upon 60,000 shares				24,000	0	0
Ditto, for the payment of a bonus of 11s. 4d. per share				34,000	0	0
				£98,148 14 8		
<i>Cr.</i> —By balance brought down				90,608	11	8
Undivided profit brought forward from the last half-year				7,540	3	0
				£98,148 14 8		

The chairman moved the adoption of the report and the accounts.

Mr. F. B. Goldner seconded the motion.

Mr. Borrodaile wished to know whether the securities were set down at the price of the day? In that case the accounts would be additionally satisfactory.

The chairman replied in the affirmative.

Mr. Borrodaile said the balance-sheet just read was the best ever presented; and they ought not to separate without acknowledging their obligations to the directors for the manner in which they had managed the company's affairs. The largest dividend ever before paid was about $9\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.; while that now declared was £13 13s. 4d.

Mr. Hodgkinson believed that at the last meeting the directors promised on this occasion to make some definite statement with regard to the amount of the reserve fund.

Mr. A. Moore, a director, said the hon. proprietor appeared to forget what occurred at the last meeting. It was then stated that the directors had no desire that £150,000 should be exceeded as the limit of the rest, only such fractional sums being added to it as it was impossible to divide. The addition now made was only £235, or 15-16th of a penny per share.

The report was then adopted, the vacancies in the direction, by retirement, filled up, and a vote of thanks to the directors having been carried, the proceedings terminated.

COLONIAL BANK.

THE half-yearly meeting of the Colonial Bank took place on the 18th of January, when a dividend was carried at the increased rate of 4 per cent., and the report which is subjoined was adopted:—

"The directors refer with satisfaction to the statement, showing that the net profits of the half-year ending on the 30th of June, 1853, after making

provision for all current, bad, and doubtful debts, paying the income-tax, and setting apart the customary amount towards the reduction of the cost of bank premises, &c., amount to £18,213 15s. 2d. Out of these profits the directors, although not losing sight of the large sum still required to make good the heavy loss their capital some years since sustained, think that the time has now arrived for giving effect to the frequently expressed wishes of the proprietors, by recommending that a dividend of £2 per cent. for the six months ending on the 30th of June last, being at the rate of £4 per cent. per annum, be now declared. This dividend will amount to £10,000, after the payment of which there will remain the sum of £8,213 15s. 2d. to go to the fund for bad debts, which will then amount to £125,935 15s. 1d. The accounts which the directors have received from the branches of the half-year's business now just concluded are satisfactory.

Debts.

Circulation	£195,370 15 10
Deposits and other liabilities	1,042,489 17 6
Paid-up capital	500,000 0 0
Fund to meet bad debts	117,721 19 11
Profit	18,213 15 2
	£1,873,796 8 5

Assets.

Specie	£198,372 8 8
Due to the bank in the colonies on bills discounted and purchased, including those past due	712,124 8 8
Due to the bank in the colonies on cash credits and current accounts	125,736 4 11
Due to the bank in London on bills remitted, cash at bankers, &c.	827,758 11 7
Bank premises and furniture in London and the colonies	9,804 14 7
	£1,873,796 8 5

No discussion took place, and the retiring directors were unanimously re-elected.

UNION BANK OF AUSTRALIA.

A SPECIAL general meeting of the proprietors of this bank was held at their offices in Old Broad-street, on the 23rd January. Mr. H. Buckle presided.

The secretary (Mr. Saunders) read a report, which set forth that the advices received from the branches since the date of those embraced in the last annual report, afford strong evidence that the extension of banking transactions throughout the Australian colonies has not been over-estimated by the directors. The prosperity of this bank has fully kept pace with the enlargement of business; the cessation of large profits on gold purchases having been in a great degree compensated by an increase in the ordinary profits, the bank has not sustained any loss, notwithstanding the altered state of commercial affairs in the colonies. The document then announces the retirement of Mr. W. Fletcher (who, by the increased value of his landed property in the colony, has acquired an ample competency) from the office of inspector; the appoint-

ment of Mr. Alexander M'Donald, late manager at Sydney, to the vacant inspectorship; of Mr. Hart, as the successor of Mr. M'Donald; the resignation, on the ground of ill-health, of the late secretary, Mr. Jackson, who receives a retiring allowance of £200 a-year for life; and the appointment of Mr. H. W. D. Saunders, late chief clerk in the Bank of British North America, to the secretaryship; and concludes as follows:—The directors now proceed to submit the statement of accounts, which presents an amount of profit for the six months now reported on of £164,693 14s. 3d. This profit admits of £164,000 being appropriated for the purpose of dividend, to apply as interest on the paid-up capital, and the same will therefore furnish a dividend by way of interest at the rate of 20 per cent. for the half-year on the amount paid-up in respect of each share in the capital of the company, payable in London, free of income-tax, on Tuesday, the 7th of February, and in the colonies, with the addition of 7d. in the pound, as soon as the inspector shall fix after the receipt of advices.

*Statement of Liabilities and Assets, at the Branches, on the 30th June, 1853,
and at the London Office, on 31st December, 1853.*

LIABILITIES.				
Circulation	£879,242	0	0	
Deposits	3,730,360	18	1	
Bills payable, and other liabilities	475,302	9	10	
Balance of undivided profit	179,767	0	8	
Reserve fund	£200,000	0	0	
Paid-up capital	820,000	0	0	
		1,020,000	0	0
			£6,284,672	8 7

ASSETS.				
Specie on hand, and cash balances	£1,706,134	5	3	
Bullion	872,776	0	0	
		£2,578,910	5	3
Bank premises, and other property	30,000	0	0	
Bills receivable, government stock, and other securities	3,475,762	3	4	
Investment of reserve fund (3½ per cents.) ..	200,000	0	0	
		£6,284,672	8	7

Statement of Profits.

Balance of undivided profit at June, 1853 ..	£179,073	6	5
To which are now to be added the profits of the past half-year, ending at the branches 30th June, and at the London office, 31st Dec., 1853 ..	164,693	14	3
		343,767	0 8
Deduct amount of interest paid at Midsummer, 1853	164,000	0	0
		164,000	0 0
Balance of undivided profit at this date	£179,767	0	8

Reserve Fund.

As reported at June, 1853	£200,000	0	0
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The chairman remarked upon the report, that no piquant sauce could be needed to render such a dish palatable. (Hear, hear.) He would therefore confine himself to a few remarks, as confirmatory of the assurance given in the report, that the bank had participated in that extension to the full extent. There were some few figures bearing upon this point which it might be satisfactory to the proprietors he should submit to them. First, with reference to the local trade, while the deposits in the bank on the 30th of June, 1852, were £1,500,000, they had risen on the 30th of June, 1853, to upwards of £3,700,000—(hear)—an increase which afforded abundant proof of the confidence the bank enjoyed in the estimation of the colonial public. (Hear, hear.) And to show that they had also participated to the full extent in the increase of trade that had taken place between the colony and the mother country, and that they had had the full advantage of the exchange operations which had become necessary in consequence, they would be surprised when he told them that while the bills drawn by the branches in the colony and accepted by the home office had been in the half-year ending December, 1852, £649,800, they had amounted in the first six months of 1853 to £1,028,000, and in the last half-year to £2,111,000. (Hear, hear.)

The chairman, in answer to questions, observed that the balance remaining over, after providing for the dividend, was clearly one which the proprietors might deal with as they thought fit. The directors were pledged from the time that the £200,000, which, by their constitution, was fixed as the amount of their reserve fund, was completed, to divide, as nearly as possible, the real profits each half-year as dividend, and that engagement they had faithfully carried out, merely reserving over the fractional balances which remained, beyond the sum necessary to pay an equal rate of per centage.

Mr. Smith—What is the £200,000 reserved for?

The chairman—That is the amount of the reserve fund fixed by the constitution of the bank. It was provided that 10 per cent. of their profits should be reserved yearly, until the £200,000 was made up. This had been done regularly until about eighteen months ago, when the required sum was completed; and since that time the whole of the profits had been divided.

Mr. Smith wished to know how much of the assets under the head of "specie in hand and cash balances" was in specie.

The secretary—Considerably over a million, but I cannot state exactly.

Mr. Borrodaile moved that the report be adopted, which was carried unanimously; and after a vote of thanks to the chairman and his colleagues, the meeting separated.

Notes of the Month.

DEATH OF MR. J. JOHNSON.—On the 23rd September ult., at Highfield, Ashby-de-la-Zouch, after a long illness, aged forty-six, Mr. John Johnson, eighteen years manager of the Ashby-de-la-Zouch branch of the Leicestershire Banking Company. Few men have adorned their situation in life more than he did, and there are few whose loss has been more generally and deservedly regretted by a whole neighbourhood.

NEW INDIAN BANK.—A new bank, to be called "The Mercantile Bank of Bombay," is to be established in that presidency. The proposed capital is fifty lacs of rupees, in 52,000 shares of 250 rupees each; all of which, it is stated, have been taken up, except a portion reserved for parties in England,

China, and Calcutta. It is questionable whether, in the present state of affairs, there is any chance of finding subscriptions for such an undertaking in this market, the available surplus that most parties possess being already employed to full advantage. The prospects of business, however, are represented as extremely encouraging; and if the whole amount necessary can be raised in the locality, it may prove a very prosperous institution.

LONDON AND COUNTY JOINT-STOCK BANK.—WEST LONDON BRANCH.—In consequence of the steady and satisfactory progress of the business of this branch, the great accession of accounts from the parishes of Chelsea, Kensington, Hammersmith, and Fulham, and at the suggestion of many influential persons, the directors have decided to designate the Knightsbridge Branch by the more comprehensive title of West London Branch.

OPERATIONS OF THE MINT.—From statements recently furnished to the Government of the operations of the Mint during the last six months, it appears that the coinage during that time has been £9,099,000 of gold and £416,000 of silver. The unprecedented nature of this amount may be estimated from the fact that in the corresponding period of each of the three preceding years the totals were as follows, viz., in 1850, gold, £66,000; silver, £129,000; in 1851, gold, £4,199,000; silver, £19,000; and, in 1852, gold, £4,453,000; silver, £32,000. The rate of coinage this year has, therefore, been more than twice as great as during 1852, when Australia was already yielding large results. Under these circumstances there is reason to believe that the aggregate shipment of sovereigns to the colony, together with the amounts taken out by emigrants, must have been beyond anything hitherto supposed, and that hence the prospect is increased of the recent drain being at no distant date followed by a remarkable reaction. At the same time a considerable portion of the enormous quantity supplied from the Mint has doubtless been absorbed at home by the sudden improvement in the condition of the working classes, from the high wages prevailing in all parts of the United Kingdom, since an extra sovereign in each family will be sufficient to account for several millions.

A CURIOUS BANK.—A painting, the property of a broker in Anderston, was the other day confided by his daughter to a Pole, for the purpose of having it glazed. The owner, on missing the picture, betrayed an unusual anxiety as to its whereabouts; which, however, was somewhat natural, seeing that he had been in the habit of depositing bank-notes for safety between the back and the canvas. Upon discovering into whose possession it had fallen, the broker instantly repaired to the Pole, and, on unscrewing the back, found, to his great mortification, that six £1 notes had been abstracted. Information was immediately conveyed to the police, who had the glazier's house searched, but none of the money turned up; and it having since transpired that the picture, with the hidden treasure, had passed through other hands before it reached the Pole, he has been discharged from custody.—*North British Daily Mail.*

AMERICAN FAILURES.—The accounts from New York, as regards the state of the money market, are more favourable. The rate of discount had receded from 15 per cent. to 12 in one day, but meanwhile several failures had been announced. The parties were Mr. H. Dwight, jun., a banker and stock-dealer, for £80,000; Messrs. Leggett, Brothers and Co., a commission house, for £85,000; L. H. Pratt, of Buffalo, a forwarding house, for £8,000; the

Owego (New York) Bank, with a capital of £40,000; the Patchin Bank, at Buffalo (New York), with a circulation of £23,000; and the Bank of Massillon (Ohio). At the same time, Diamond and Co., the sugar-refiners, of Bristol, Rhode Island, had paid their creditors 80 per cent., and obtained a full discharge.

NORTH WESTERN BANK OF INDIA.—At the half-yearly meeting of the North Western Bank of India, held at Calcutta, on the 2nd of August, the profits for the six months were stated to have been £8,975. A dividend was declared at the rate of 8 per cent. on the capital of £220,560, and £153 was carried to profit and loss.

FIREPROOF STRONG ROOMS.—Messrs. Chubb and Son have just completed one of their large moveable wrought-iron fire-proof strong rooms, for the Adelaide branch of the South Australian Banking Company. Its external dimensions are 7 feet high, 7 feet wide, and 7 feet deep; and, after deducting the necessary thickness of the fire-proofing chambers, the internal contents amount to 254 cubic feet. The interior of the room is fitted with tiers of shelves sufficient to accommodate a great quantity of books, deed boxes, &c., and at the farther end with two distinct, strong iron closets, for the deposit of cash, bills, and other valuables, which will be accessible only to the officials who possess the keys of these depositories. The room is lined throughout with hard steel plates, to render ineffectual any attempts to gain access to the interior, by means of drilling; and the thickness of the iron plates, forming the body of the room, is three quarters of an inch at the thinnest part. The room is so constructed as to be taken to pieces for convenience of packing and transit, and can be erected in its new position in a few hours. The fire-proofing composition is enclosed in separate chambers, which are secured in their proper positions when re-erecting the room. The entrance is secured by a pair of strong fire-proof wrought-iron folding doors, fitted with Chubb's Patent Detector Locks, on their recently-improved principle, throwing twenty massive bolts all round, secondly by two case-hardened iron scutcheon locks, over the keyholes of the main locks, and further by two of Chubb's bank locks with twelve tumblers in each, as additional check locks. Each door is made to open independently of the other, that, in case of the accidental loss of any of the set of keys belonging to either door, access to the interior may be obtained by the other, in order that the business of the bank may not be impeded. The weight of the room, complete, is nearly seven tons.

BANK MOVEMENTS.

THE Bank of England have given notice that, after the 1st of March next, the hour of commencing public business in that establishment will be ten o'clock a.m., instead of nine, as heretofore. The measure is not only a considerate one for the persons employed, but is calculated also to prove convenient in many respects. It may be assumed that a similar course will be adopted by the private and joint-stock banks generally.

The Agra and United Service Bank, at a meeting held at Calcutta on the 26th of November, resolved to increase their capital from its present amount, £686,450, to £700,000. The new shares are to be issued *pro rata* to the present proprietors at par, and the principal reason for the augmentation is stated to consist in the opening of an agency in China.

The Mercantile Bank of India have appointed Mr. A. Anderson as their manager in London, and the arrival of that gentleman is now daily expected.

Monetary Intelligence.

REVIEW OF THE MONEY MARKET FOR THE MONTH OF JANUARY, 1854.

ALTHOUGH the importance of political affairs has not in the least diminished, the excitement produced has failed to increase the stringency of the money market. The activity of trade has received a partial check through the critical position of the Eastern question, while the payment of the January dividends has augmented the available means of accommodation. Under these circumstances the tendency in the rate of discount is in favour of the borrower, first-class bills being now negotiated at $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. The allowance for deposits ranges from 4 to $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., but the brokers exhibit little anxiety to take in any large amount. For the present it is not thought that material alteration will take place in the value of money, unless war breaks out, and loans shall have to be brought forward. In connexion with the latter point, many persons are of opinion that if peace be eventually established, the future, as respects financial affairs, is not altogether unclouded, because of the known necessities of several of the European states. Turkey, Russia, and France will each require assistance were an adjustment of political differences arranged to-morrow; and the real question at issue in such a condition of things is not the amount needed, but the terms on which it can be raised. These respective governments would, of course, experience great difficulty in obtaining money at all in a period of war; but it is, in either case, only the postponement of the operation until a more auspicious opportunity.

The latest intelligence from St. Petersburg relates to the dispatch of Count Orloff, on a special mission to the Courts of Europe; but it is scarcely expected that it will produce any definite result, the apprehension being that the Czar desires to procrastinate, with the view of facilitating the progress of his armaments. In the meantime the attitude of firmness assumed by England and France, especially through the entrance of the combined fleets into the Black Sea, will convince the Emperor that no half-measures are contemplated. The reports that Baron Brunow had received immediate orders from his government to withdraw from this country, have proved unfounded.

The Court of the South Sea Company have reduced the rate at which they make advances on their stock to 3 per cent., and they have also authorised their brokers to purchase it at the price of £115 from any proprietor who may wish to realise, instead of waiting for the Act of Parliament, by which the distribution of the funds of the company will be effected. The *minimum* value of the stock estimated from the amount of assets to be divided, is £116 13s. 4d.

Violent fluctuations have occurred in English securities, owing to the enormous speculative transactions entered into. The lowest point Consols have touched is $89\frac{1}{8}$, which, within a few days, show a reaction of 4 per cent. They are now rather better, and may be quoted (28th) $90\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$; but the market manifests symptoms of weakness, through the unfavourable nature of the rumours circulated.

Foreign securities and railway shares have sympathised with the variations in the funds. Russian, Dutch, Belgian, and Sardinian have experienced the

greatest depreciation. The fall in the leading railway stocks has not been so severe, the near approach of the payment of the dividends inducing holders to wait the results of the half-yearly meetings. Joint-stock bank shares have been in good demand at higher prices—those of the London establishments having attracted the greatest attention.

In produce, the principal transactions have been in tallow and hemp, large purchases having been prompted by the uncertainties attending the future situation of trade in the Baltic. Sugar and coffee have been fairly supported. Saltpetre has advanced; and the contract for rum with the government having been trebled, there is also an improvement in that article.

The affairs of W. B. Anderson, whose forgeries have lately occasioned some sensation, have been placed under the administration of bankruptcy, and an approximate balance-sheet has been prepared, showing assets amounting to £31,100 against liabilities of £34,300.

Meetings of the Peruvian and Guatemala bondholders have been held this month. In the former case resolutions were passed deprecating an attempt to make a surreptitious issue of stock, and appointing a special committee to watch their interests. In the latter the majority have agreed to transfer the management of future negotiations to the committee of Spanish-American bondholders, the old committee being dissolved.

The annexed table presents the fluctuations in the English and Foreign Stocks and Railway Shares during the month just concluded:—

ENGLISH FUNDS.

		Price on Dec. 28.	Highest.	Lowest.	Price on Jan. 28.
Consols	..	93 $\frac{1}{2}$ to 4	94	89 $\frac{1}{2}$	90 $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$
Exchequer Bills' average ..	..	3s. to 6s. pm.	11s. pm.	3s. pm.	8s. to 11s. p.

FOREIGN STOCKS.

Brazilian	..	98	99	97 $\frac{1}{2}$	99
Buenos Ayres	..	63 $\frac{1}{2}$	63 $\frac{1}{2}$	60	62
Chilian	..	103	103	100	101
Dutch	..	64 $\frac{1}{2}$	64 $\frac{1}{2}$	58 $\frac{1}{2}$	61
Mexican	..	24	24 $\frac{1}{2}$	21 $\frac{1}{8}$	23
Peruvian, 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. ..	..	—	68 $\frac{1}{2}$	64	66 $\frac{1}{2}$
Portuguese, 4 per cent. ..	..	43 $\frac{1}{2}$	43 $\frac{1}{2}$	37	38
Russian	..	112 $\frac{1}{2}$	112 $\frac{1}{2}$	103	105 $\frac{1}{2}$
Spanish	..	46 $\frac{1}{2}$	46 $\frac{1}{2}$	38	40 $\frac{1}{2}$

RAILWAY SHARES.

Brighton	..	99 $\frac{1}{2}$	100	95 $\frac{1}{2}$	96
Caledonian	..	55	55 $\frac{3}{4}$	49 $\frac{1}{2}$	51 $\frac{1}{2}$
Eastern Counties	..	13 $\frac{1}{2}$	13 $\frac{1}{2}$	12 $\frac{1}{2}$	12 $\frac{3}{4}$
Great Northern	..	84 $\frac{1}{2}$	85	80	82
Great Western	..	83 $\frac{1}{2}$	84 $\frac{1}{2}$	79	83
London and North Western	..	103 $\frac{1}{2}$	104 $\frac{1}{2}$	99	101
Midland	..	62 $\frac{1}{2}$	63 $\frac{1}{2}$	58 $\frac{1}{2}$	60
Lancashire and Yorkshire ..	..	66 $\frac{1}{2}$	67 $\frac{1}{2}$	60 $\frac{1}{2}$	62
North Staffordshire	..	11 $\frac{1}{2}$	11 $\frac{1}{2}$	11 $\frac{1}{2}$	11 $\frac{1}{2}$
South Eastern	..	61 $\frac{1}{2}$	62 $\frac{1}{2}$	57 $\frac{1}{2}$	59
South Western	..	77 $\frac{1}{2}$	78 $\frac{1}{2}$	75	77
York, Newcastle and Berwick	..	64	64 $\frac{1}{2}$	60	62
York and North Midland ..	..	47 $\frac{1}{2}$	48	43	44 $\frac{1}{2}$
Northern of France	..	34 $\frac{1}{2}$	35 $\frac{1}{2}$	28 $\frac{1}{2}$ ex. int.	29 $\frac{1}{2}$
East Indian	..	23 $\frac{1}{2}$	23 $\frac{1}{2}$	22 $\frac{1}{2}$	23

THE STATE OF TRADE.

THE accounts from the manufacturing districts are not discouraging; and had it not been for the apprehensions entertained respecting war, the new year would have opened with greater activity. In those localities where the "strikes" continue there has been a gradual curtailment of production, which is likely to last for some time to come. The other departments of trade are rather reviving, with a prospect of further improvement should peace be preserved.

THE CORN TRADE.

THE *Gazette* returns for England and Wales have been—

Week ended 1853.	Wheat. Qrs. sold.	Weekly Average. s. d.	Six Weeks' Average. s. d.	Duty. s. d.	Corresponding Six Weeks Last Year. s. d.
Dec. 24	71,764 ..	70 0 ..	71 8 ..	1 0 ..	42 3
„ 31	76,785 ..	73 0 ..	71 9 ..	1 0 ..	43 4
1854.					
Jan. 7	64,329 ..	76 2 ..	72 5 ..	1 0 ..	44 3
„ 14	60,500 ..	78 10 ..	73 5 ..	1 0 ..	45 0
„ 21	64,581 ..	82 4 ..	75 2 ..	1 0 ..	45 8

The importations since the harvest of 1853 have been:—

	Wheat. Qrs.	Other Grain. Qrs.	Total. Qrs.
Twenty-one weeks ended 14th Dec., 1853	2,578,068	1,806,650	4,384,718
Five weeks ended 18th Jan., 1854	512,710	185,274	697,984
	3,090,778	1,991,924	5,082,702

And the *weekly averages* have been—

Twenty-one weeks ended 14th Dec., 1853	122,000	86,000	208,000
Five weeks ended 18th Jan., 1854	102,000	37,000	139,000
Less ..	20,000	49,000	69,000

The grain market has gradually advanced throughout the month. The weather, although favourable for agricultural operations, has not interfered with the demand, and the supplies having been extremely moderate, the improvement has been well maintained. Supplies from America have not increased in the proportion that was expected; and as this is the sole quarter from whence they can be drawn to any extent between the late and next harvest, it is generally considered that quotations will go higher. It will be perceived by the *Gazette* returns that the average has now reached an important point.

EAST INDIA REMITTANCES.

AMOUNT OF BILLS DRAWN FOR.

From Dec. 24th to Jan. 7th inclusive	{ Bengal	£81,913 18 6
	{ Madras	3,266 15 11
	{ Bombay	150 0 0
From Jan. 8th to Jan. 23rd inclusive	{ Bengal	£89,227 0 9
	{ Madras	10,799 13 6
	{ Bombay	456 5 0
		<u>£185,813 13 8</u>

Prices of Joint-Stock Bank Shares.

LIVERPOOL (*Messrs. Geddes and Drinkwater*), January 25th, 1854.—Bank of Liverpool, £20½, 21; Borough Bank, £11½, 11½; New shares, £7½, 1½ pm.; Commercial Bank, £11½, 12½; Manchester and Liverpool District Bank, £9, 9½ pm.; North and South Wales Bank, £5¼, 5½.

LEEDS (*Messrs. Greenland, Brothers*), January 25th, 1854.—Leeds Banking Company, £26½, 27; Yorkshire Banking Company, £8, 8½.

DUBLIN (*Messrs. J. J. Stephens and Son*), January 25th, 1854.—Bank of Ireland Stock, £220¼ ex d., 220½, 220½, 220½, 220, 219½, 218, 218½, 218¾, 218, 217½; Hibernian Bank, £30½ ex d., 30½, 30, 29¾, 29½, 30; National Bank of Ireland, £23½, 23½, 23, 23½, 23½; Royal Bank of Ireland, £18¾, 19, 19¼, 19¾.

HULL (*Messrs. T. W. Flint and Co.*), January 24th, 1854.—Hull Banking Company, £18½, 18½; Yorkshire Banking Company, £8½, 8½.

MONTHLY CHRONOLOGY.

January 4th.—Sweden and Denmark declare themselves in favour of a neutral position on the Turkish question.—Bread riots at Exeter.

11th.—The combined fleets of England and France enter the Black Sea.

12th.—Intelligence received of the victory by the Turkish troops at Kalafat.

14th.—Advices announced the further success of the Turkish forces at Citale.

20th.—Bank of France raise the rate of discount to 5 per cent.

24th.—The rate of interest on French Treasury Bills increased 1 per cent.

25th.—The National Bank of Belgium raises its rates of discount from 2 to 3 per cent.—Further advices from St. Petersburg, but nothing decisive.—Reports of the withdrawal of Baron Brunow from London, and M. Kissileff from Paris, contradicted.—Excessive fluctuations in the funds, occasioned by the conflicting nature of the various rumours.

26th.—Count Orloff dispatched to the European courts to open fresh negotiations.

NOTICES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Several interesting papers have been received, and will be dealt with in our next number. All letters, except they involve important questions, should be sent, at the latest, by the 20th of the month.

T. (Glasgow).—Due attention has been paid to the enclosures. They will reach the proper hands.

R. S. T. (Sunderland).—We have no knowledge of the office; and so many have latterly sprung up, that it is difficult to speculate on their ultimate success.

A SUBSCRIBER.—It is true the Court of the South Sea Company have prevailed by a narrow majority, but it remains to be seen whether they will accomplish their object. The Incorporated Law Society are already moving, preparatory to the new Parliamentary campaign, the deputation to the Lord Chancellor indicating that they are not likely to relax their activity.

BRANCH MANAGER.—There is nothing to warrant the conclusion arrived at, but it is considered that an alteration will before long be effected.

EX.—The standard work on trustee and executorship is Mr. Justice Williams's Book, but it is a large and expensive publication. There is no small law volume of any authority on these subjects.

THE ENGLISH FUNDS.—Daily Prices from 28th December, 1853, to 27th January, 1854, inclusive.

	28	29	30	31	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
Bank Stock (div. 8 per Ct.)	217½	217½	217½	217½	217½	217½	217½	217½	217½	217½	217½	217½	217½	217½	217½	217½	217½	217½	217½	217½	217½	217½	217½	216½	216	216	216	215	215	215	215
3 per Ct. Red. Anns.	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	92½	92	92	92	92	92	92	92
3 per Ct. Consols Anns.	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	92½	92	92	92	92	92	92	92
34 per cent. Anns.	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	92½	92	92	92	92	92	92	92
New 24 per cent.	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	92½	92	92	92	92	92	92	92
New 5 per cent. Anns.	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	92½	92	92	92	92	92	92	92
Long Anns. Jan. 5, 1860	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	92½	92	92	92	92	92	92	92
Ditto 30 years, Oct. 10, 1859	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	92½	92	92	92	92	92	92	92
Ditto 30 years, Jan. 5, 1860	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	92½	92	92	92	92	92	92	92
Ditto 30 years, Jan. 5, 1860	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	92½	92	92	92	92	92	92	92
India Stock (div. 104 percent)	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	92½	92	92	92	92	92	92	92
Ditto Bonds £1000 (div. 3 per Ct.)	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	92½	92	92	92	92	92	92	92
South Sea Stock (div. 3½ p. Ct.)	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	92½	92	92	92	92	92	92	92
Ditto, under £500	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	92½	92	92	92	92	92	92	92
Do. Old Anns. (div. 3 p. Ct.)	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	92½	92	92	92	92	92	92	92
Do. new Anns. (div. 3 p. Ct.)	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	92½	92	92	92	92	92	92	92
3 per cent. Anns. 1751	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	92½	92	92	92	92	92	92	92
Bank Stock for ac. 13th Feb.	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	92½	92	92	92	92	92	92	92
Sp. Cent. Cons. for op. 18th Jan	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	92½	92	92	92	92	92	92	92
Do. for ac. 13th February	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	92½	92	92	92	92	92	92	92
India Stock for ac. 15th Feb.	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	92½	92	92	92	92	92	92	92
Ex. Bills £1000, 2d. per cent.	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	92½	92	92	92	92	92	92	92
India. £500 do.	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	92½	92	92	92	92	92	92	92
Ditto. Small do.	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	92½	92	92	92	92	92	92	92
Ditto.	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	92½	92	92	92	92	92	92	92

JOINT-STOCK BANKS.

	London	Latest Prices.
Australasia	£40 sb., 0 pd. 7½	50
British North American	50	50
Commercial of London	100	20
Colonial	100	20
London and Westminster	100	20
London Joint Stock	50	10
London Bank	25	25
Provincial of Ireland	100	25
Ditto, New	100	25
National of Ireland	50	22
National Provincial of England	100	35
Ditto, New	20	10
South Australian	25	25
Union of Australia	25	25
Union of London	50	10
London and County	50	20
London Chartered of Australia	20	15
English, Scottish, and Australian Chartered	20	10
Bank of India, China, and Australia	20	2
New South Wales	20	2

FOREIGN STOCKS (28th January.)

Brazilian Bonds, 5 per Cent.	99
Chilian Bonds, 6 per Cent.	101
Danish 5 per Cent.	99½
Mexican 5 per Cent.	23
Peruvian 4½ per Cent.	26
Portuguese Bonds, 4 per Cent.	34
Russian Bonds, 1852, 5 per Cent. in £ Ster.	106
Ditto, 4½ per Cent.	99
Spanish Bonds 3 per Cent.	40½
Ditto, Passive	31
Ditto, 3 per Cent. Deferred	19½
(Dividends on the above payable in London.)	
Austrian 5 per Cent.	93
Belgian Bonds, 4½ per Cent.	89
Dutch 3½ per Cent.	61
Ditto 4 per Cent. Loan	91½
French 4½ per Cent., at Paris, Jan. 27, 1854	98½
Ditto 3 per Cent., ditto	70½

RAILWAY SHARES.

	Courant.	Paid up	Prices
Caledonian	100	100	Dec. 25 33½
Eastern Counties	100	100	13
Great Northern	100	100	85
Great Western	100	100	84
London and Blackwall	100	100	81
London and Brighton	100	100	81
London and North-West	100	100	99½
North-West	100	100	101
South-West	100	100	77
Midland	100	100	63½
North British	100	100	60½
South-Eastern	100	100	31½
York, Newcastle, & Berwick	100	100	59½
York & North Midland	1100	1100	64
			45½

The closing prices of the day are quoted.

Bank of England Weekly Returns.

Account, pursuant to the Act 7th and 8th of Victoria, cap. 32, for the Weeks ending as follows.

ISSUE DEPARTMENT.

	1853. Dec. 24th.	1853 Dec. 31st.	1854. Jan. 7th.	1854. Jan. 14th.
Notes issued.....	£ 29,128,435	£ 29,180,080	£ 29,148,800	£ 29,383,840
Government debt.....	11,015,100	11,015,100	11,015,100	11,015,100
Other securities.....	2,984,900	2,984,900	2,984,900	2,984,900
Gold coin and bullion.....	15,128,435	15,180,080	15,148,800	15,383,840
Silver bullion.....	—	—	—	—
	29,128,435	29,180,080	29,148,800	29,383,840

BANKING DEPARTMENT.

	1853. Dec. 24th.	1853 Dec. 31st.	1854. Jan. 7th.	1854. Jan. 14th.
Proprietors' capital.....	£ 14,553,000	£ 14,553,000	£ 14,553,000	£ 14,553,000
Reserve.....	3,198,435	3,218,826	3,247,894	3,295,813
Public deposits (including Ex- chequer, Savings' Banks, Com- missioners of National Debt, and Dividend Accounts)	11,157,724	11,409,933	8,391,993	3,313,993
Other deposits.....	10,667,922	11,041,049	12,744,634	14,140,492
Seven day and other bills.....	1,179,166	1,172,694	1,215,059	1,232,329
	40,696,267	41,395,492	40,052,580	36,435,627
Government securities (including Dead Weight Annuity)	15,043,730	15,044,330	14,833,299	13,644,025
Other securities.....	16,643,651	17,376,123	16,736,409	14,663,295
Notes.....	8,318,280	8,102,330	7,680,600	7,443,015
Gold and silver coin.....	690,606	672,819	682,272	683,292
	40,696,267	41,395,492	40,052,580	36,435,627

The Exchanges.

	Dec. 30th.	Jan. 6th.	Jan. 13th.	Jan. 20th.
Amsterdam, short ..	11 14½	11 14½	11 14½	11 14½
Ditto 3 months..	11 16	11 16½	11 16½	11 16
Rotterdam, ditto ..	11 16½	11 16½	11 16½	11 16½
Antwerp, ditto ..	25 20	25 20	25 20	25 20
Brussels, ditto.....	25 20	25 20	25 20	25 20
Hamburg, ditto.....	13 4½	13 5½	13 5½	13 4½
Paris, short.....	25 5	25 5	25 5	25 2½
Paris, 3 months.....	25 30	25 32½	25 32½	25 30
Marseilles, ditto.....	25 32½	25 35	25 32½	25 32½
Frankfort, ditto.....	118½	118½	118½	118½
Vienna, ditto.....	11 46	11 50	12 18	12 25
Trieste, ditto.....	11 48	11 54	12 22	12 30
Petersburgh, ditto ..	37½	37½	37½	37½
Madrid, ditto.....	50½	50½	50½	50½
Cadix, ditto.....	50½	50½	50½	50½
Leghorn, ditto.....	30 30	30 32½	30 30	30 27½
Genoa, ditto.....	25 57½	25 57½	25 55	25 52½
Naples, ditto.....	42½	42½	42½	42½
Palermo, ditto.....	126½	126½	126½	126½
Messina, ditto.....	126½	126½	126½	126½
Lisbon, 60 days' date	53	53	53	53
Oporto, ditto.....	53½	53½	53½	53½
Rio Janeiro, ditto ..	—	—	—	—

PRICES OF BULLION.

	Per Ounce.	Per Ounce.	Per Ounce.	Per Ounce.
Foreign Gold in Bars, (Standard).....	£3 17 9	£3 17 9	£3 17 9	£3 17 9
New Dollars.....	0 5 0½	0 5 0½	—	0 4 11½
Silver in Bars (Stand.)	0 5 1½	0 5 1½	—	0 5 1½

Bankers' Magazine Appendix.—February, 1854.

Bankers' Weekly Circulation Returns.

Pursuant to the Act 7 & 8 Victoria, c. 32; extracted from the LONDON GAZETTES.

PRIVATE BANKS.

NAME OF BANK.	Authorized Issue.	AVERAGE AMOUNT.			
		Dec. 3.	Dec. 10.	Dec. 17.	Dec. 24.
		£	£	£	£
1 Andover Bank	17,751	11,781	12,272	12,661	11,353
2 Ashford Bank	11,849	11,255	11,229	10,915	11,650
3 Aylsham Bank	5,854	4,440	4,335	4,425	4,806
4 Aylesbury Old Bank	48,461	30,310	30,354	29,637	30,379
5 Baldock and Biggleswade Bank ...	37,223	26,344	27,114	27,391	27,611
6 Barnstaple Bank	17,182	9,524	9,371	9,370	9,466
7 Basingstoke and Odiham Bank ...	24,730	17,905	17,816	17,943	16,736
8 Bedford Bank	34,218	32,986	32,590	31,773	31,949
9 Bewdley Bank	18,597	11,624	11,524	11,510	11,144
10 Bicester and Oxfordshire Bank ...	27,090	16,140	15,645	16,651	16,097
11 Birmingham Bank—Attwoods & Co.	23,695	24,927	23,520	21,735	21,758
12 Birmingham and Warwickshire Bk.	18,132	10,800	10,715	10,674	11,093
13 Blandford Bank	9,723	6,851	6,934	7,395	7,605
14 Boston Bank—Garfit and Co.	75,069	73,574	74,292	72,315	67,070
15 Boston Bank—Gee and Co.	15,161	13,387	14,049	12,796	14,234
16 Bridgewater Bank	10,028	5,267	5,574	5,778	5,927
17 Bristol Bank	48,277	36,500	38,111	38,535	40,005
18 Broseley and Bridgenorth Bank ...	26,717	16,955	17,560	16,968	18,582
19 Buckingham Bank	29,557	21,090	20,762	21,046	20,669
20 Bury and Suffolk Bank	82,362	73,165	71,754	71,698	72,244
21 Banbury Bank	43,457	36,988	36,076	36,604	38,058
22 Banbury Old Bank	55,153	26,357	25,944	26,612	26,846
23 Bath City Bank	4,572	3,552	3,102	3,119	3,639
24 Bedfordshire Leighton Buzzard Bk.	36,829	34,476	34,039	34,717	33,894
25 Birmingham Bk.—Taylor & Lloyds	38,816	33,138	33,418	32,026	31,800
26 Bradford Old Bank	12,676	11,988	11,454	11,772	11,706
27 Brecon Old Bank	68,271	66,101	67,534	68,951	65,655
28 Brighton Union Bank	33,794	23,313	22,930	22,825	23,551
29 Burlington and Driffield Bank	12,745	12,104	11,532	11,401	11,604
30 Bury St. Edmund's Bank	3,201	2,329	2,265	2,168	2,578
31 Cambridge Bk.—Morlock & Co.	25,744	17,749	18,175	17,545	17,424
32 Cambridge and Cambridgeshire Bk.	49,916	43,174	42,490	43,045	42,700
33 Canterbury Bank	33,671	31,262	31,192	31,753	32,367
34 Carmarthen Bank	23,597	21,904	21,813	21,815	21,749
35 Chertsey Bank	3,436	3,270	3,338	3,155	3,103
36 Colechester Bank	25,082	16,922	17,055	16,590	16,956
37 Colechester and Essex Bank	48,704	31,386	31,363	31,627	31,118
38 Cornish Bank—Tweedy & Co. ...	49,869	50,525	51,535	47,061	45,153
39 Coventry Bank	12,045	6,510	6,310	7,806	7,150
40 City Bank, Exeter	21,527	18,195	18,562	20,924	20,547
41 Craven Bank—Alcocks & Co. ...	77,154	73,556	72,301	71,979	69,725
42 Cardiff Bank	7,001	6,745	7,077	6,402	6,482
43 Chepstow Old Bank	9,387	7,852	8,200	8,595	8,222
44 Derby Bank—Messrs. Evans	13,332	11,431	11,822	11,348	11,346
45 Derby Bank—Smith and Co.	41,304	37,720	38,008	40,138	39,610
46 Derby Old Bank	27,237	26,413	26,336	25,737	24,451
47 Devizes and Wiltshire Bank	20,674	9,140	9,203	9,175	9,242
48 Diss Bank	10,657	10,633	10,573	10,574	10,420
49 Doncaster Bank and Retford Bank	77,400	74,564	72,189	70,432	69,639
50 Darlington Bank	86,218	84,481	83,515	83,643	84,895

WEEKLY RETURNS OF BANKS OF ISSUE.

NAME OF BANK.	Authorised Issue.	AVERAGE AMOUNT.			
		Dec. 3.	Dec. 10.	Dec. 17.	Dec. 24.
	£	£	£	£	£
51 Devonport Bank	10,664	9,534	9,758	10,480	10,770
52 Dorchester Old Bank	48,807	44,015	43,712	43,105	43,898
53 East Cornwall Bk.—Robins & Co.	112,280	107,558	106,012	104,424	10,066
54 East Riding Bank—Bower & Co.	53,392	52,179	49,739	50,590	50,695
55 Essex Bk. & Bishops Stortford Bk.	69,637	41,337	40,271	39,436	40,415
56 Exeter Bank	37,894	26,006	26,337	26,255	27,385
57 Fakenham Bank	24,293	22,966	23,448	23,557	23,808
58 Faringdon Bk. & Bk. of Wantage	8,977	6,727	7,120	6,534	6,355
59 Farnham Bank	14,202	13,188	13,725	13,196	12,201
60 Faversham Bank	6,681	5,629	5,780	6,001	6,228
61 Godalming Bank	6,322	5,768	5,886	5,540	5,366
62 Guildford Bank	14,524	5,832	5,852	5,040	5,295
63 Grantham Bank—Hardy and Co.	30,372	27,462	26,976	26,482	27,292
64 Hastings Old Bank	38,038	34,865	33,806	33,655	33,918
65 Hereford City and County Bank.	22,364	18,079	18,318	17,867	17,345
66 Hertford and Ware Bank	23,635	20,794	20,861	20,063	21,900
67 Hull & Kingston-upon-Hull Bank	19,979	19,321	19,435	19,215	20,150
68 Huntingdon Town & County Bank	56,591	48,447	45,800	45,925	46,510
69 Harwich Bank	5,778	5,397	5,480	5,517	5,140
70 Helms Hempstead Bank	23,842	23,508	23,322	22,646	22,908
71 Herefordshire, Hitchin Bank	38,764	35,059	33,939	34,842	35,276
72 Hereford, Ross, & Archfield Bk.	27,625	20,187	19,602	20,569	20,925
73 Ipswich Bank	21,901	20,670	20,185	20,523	20,743
74 Ipswich & Needham Market Bank	80,699	62,480	61,895	61,898	61,834
75 Kentish Bank—Mercer & Co. ...	19,895	14,715	15,090	14,819	14,920
76 Kington and Radnorshire Bank...	26,050	25,993	26,049	26,018	26,011
77 Knighton Bank	9,090	9,077	9,075	9,070	9,094
78 Knaresborough Old Bank	21,825	22,568	21,910	20,996	20,059
79 Kendal Bank	44,663	42,890	41,501	40,805	41,384
80 Kettering Bank	9,192	9,043	8,589	8,367	9,025
81 Lane End Staffordshire Bank ...	5,624	4,904	4,939	5,211	5,160
82 Leeds Bank	53,357	51,494	53,613	53,205	51,739
83 Leeds Union Bank	37,459	36,770	36,917	37,423	37,443
84 Leicester Bank	32,322	28,689	29,299	29,146	28,303
85 Lewes Old Bank	44,836	34,343	33,027	32,918	32,299
86 Lichfield Bank	22,786	10,007	10,080	9,927	10,127
87 Lincoln Bank	100,342	95,166	92,224	90,376	86,210
88 Llandoverly Bank & Llandilo Bank	32,945	23,825	21,056	19,816	19,433
89 Loughborough Bank	7,359	7,295	7,195	7,231	7,150
90 Lymington Bank	5,038	3,415	3,450	3,614	3,581
91 Lynn Regis and Lincolnshire Bank	42,817	35,672	35,543	34,656	34,757
92 Lynn Regis and Norfolk Bank ...	13,917	13,520	12,827	12,550	12,201
93 Macclesfield Bank	15,760	15,058	15,755	15,520	15,315
94 Manningtree Bank	7,692	2,706	2,515	2,305	2,183
95 Merionethshire Bank	10,906	8,308	8,157	8,912	10,392
96 Miners' Bank	18,688	16,895	17,413	17,518	17,819
97 Monmouthshire Agricultural and Commercial Bank	29,335	28,051	29,025	28,399	27,980
98 Monmouth Old Bank	16,385	15,630	15,643	15,519	14,747
99 Newark Bank	28,788	27,022	27,008	26,300	26,658
100 Newark and Sleaford Bank	51,615	49,180	49,567	48,982	49,056
101 Newbury Bank	36,787	21,332	20,548	20,128	21,730
102 Newmarket Bank	23,098	18,990	18,256	18,059	17,916
103 Norwich Crown Bank and Norfolk and Suffolk Bank	49,671	46,759	47,265	47,669	47,131
104 Norwich and Norfolk Bank	75,372	69,380	69,666	69,471	71,204
105 Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Bank	10,866	10,591	10,256	9,932	9,835

WEEKLY RETURNS OF BANKS OF ISSUE.

NAME OF BANK.	Authorised Issue.	AVERAGE AMOUNT.			
		Dec. 3.	Dec. 10.	Dec. 17.	Dec. 24.
	£	£	£	£	£
106 Nuneaton Bank	5,898	3,128	3,224	3,176	3,010
107 Naval Bank, Plymouth	27,321	23,597	23,635	22,588	21,746
108 New Sarum Bk.—Everett & Smith	15,659	10,942	10,076	10,238	10,614
109 Nottingham Bank	31,047	29,752	30,260	30,621	28,620
110 Oswestry Bank	18,471	10,971	11,774	11,518	11,292
111 Oxford Old Bank	34,391	32,783	33,015	34,028	35,918
112 Old Bank, Tonbridge	13,183	10,331	10,034	9,982	9,529
113 Oxfordshire Witney Bank	11,852	9,275	9,277	8,840	8,719
114 Pease's Old Bank, Hull	48,807	46,548	45,955	45,543	44,870
115 Penzance Bank	11,405	10,785	10,701	10,514	10,484
116 Peterborough Bank—Yorke & Co.	12,545	8,479	8,166	8,046	7,648
117 Pembrokeshire Bank	12,910	12,776	12,252	11,860	11,595
118 Reading Bank—Simmonds & Co.	37,519	27,790	27,309	26,440	26,541
119 Reading Bk.—Stephens & Blandy	43,271	28,619	28,220	28,420	27,474
120 Richmond Bank, Richmond	6,889	6,557	6,600	6,285	6,362
121 Rochdale Bank	5,590	4,586	4,503	4,466	4,385
122 Rochester, Chatham, & Strood Bk.	10,480	7,762	6,043	7,321	7,145
123 Royston Bank	16,393	12,849	12,105	11,925	12,238
124 Rugby Bank	17,250	10,529	10,041	9,756	9,735
125 Rye Bank	29,864	17,275	16,439	15,644	15,580
126 Ross Old Bank, Herefordshire ...	4,420	4,152	3,925	4,421	4,231
127 Saffron Walden & North Essex Bk.	47,646	34,283	33,468	34,626	34,866
128 Salop Bank	22,338	14,899	14,657	15,435	15,408
129 Scarborough Old Bank	24,813	24,617	24,433	24,372	24,615
130 Shrewsbury Old Bank	43,191	41,499	42,239	42,956	42,628
131 Sittingbourne and Milton Bank...	4,789	3,048	2,729	2,525	2,223
132 Southampton Town & County Bk.	18,589	12,537	12,436	12,003	12,510
133 Southwell Bank	14,744	13,282	12,993	12,447	11,809
134 Southampton and Hampshire Bk.	6,770	3,711	3,656	3,611	3,670
135 Stone Bank	9,154	385	385	385	385
136 Stafford Old Bank	14,166	10,206	10,647	10,827	11,016
137 Stamford and Rutland Bank	31,858	30,640	30,465	29,190	29,001
138 Shrewsbury and Welsh Pool Bank	25,336	25,590	25,261	24,916	23,719
139 Taunton Bank	29,799	25,519	25,988	25,635	25,497
140 Tavistock Bank	13,421	10,224	11,500	11,358	10,552
141 Thornbury Bank	10,026	6,564	6,421	6,252	6,188
142 Tiverton and Devonshire Bank ...	13,470	8,795	8,408	8,460	9,030
143 Thrapstone and Kettering Bank..	11,559	11,121	11,045	10,886	10,802
144 Tring Bank and Chesham Bank..	13,531	12,456	12,558	12,183	12,462
145 Towcester Old Bank	10,801	8,056	7,936	7,710	7,783
146 Town and County of Poole Bk. and Ringwood and Poole Bk.	11,856	10,170	9,866	10,467	10,077
147 Union Bank, Cornwall	17,003	11,153	11,973	10,386	10,717
148 Uxbridge Old Bank	25,136	13,813	13,388	13,625	13,041
149 Wallingford Bank	17,064	7,983	8,145	8,007	7,910
150 Warwick and Warwickshire Bank	30,504	22,803	21,913	21,377	22,398
151 Wellington Bank, Somerset	6,528	3,729	3,603	3,504	3,531
152 West Riding Bank	46,158	44,498	43,207	44,694	46,741
153 Whithy Old Bank	14,258	14,098	13,629	13,700	14,537
154 Winchester, Alesford & Alton Bk.	25,892	20,555	20,355	19,475	20,092
155 Winchester and Hampshire Bank	6,737	4,935	5,055	4,841	4,726
156 Weymouth Old Bank	16,461	14,444	14,308	13,820	13,599
157 Wirksworth and Derbyshire Bk.	37,602	34,646	36,217	35,680	35,686
158 Wisbeach and Lincolnshire Bank	59,713	51,320	51,047	48,604	47,865
159 Wiveliscombe Bank	7,602	5,829	6,283	6,508	7,039
160 Wolverhampton Bk.—Goodricke and Co.	14,180	13,682	12,851	13,120	12,873
161 Worcester Bank	15,463	8,079	8,209	8,202	8,018

WEEKLY RETURNS OF BANKS OF ISSUE.

NAME OF BANK.	Authorised Issue.	AVERAGE AMOUNT.			
		Dec. 3.	Dec. 10.	Dec. 17.	Dec. 24.
	£	£	£	£	£
162 Worcester Old Bank	87,448	70,327	69,432	68,762	66,611
163 Worcestershire Bank	14,309	8,972	8,988	9,195	9,267
164 Wolverhampton Bank—R. & W. Fryer	11,867	11,055	11,109	10,878	11,297
165 Yarmouth and Suffolk Bank	53,060	45,066	45,400	47,881	48,840
166 Yarmouth, Norfolk, & Suffolk Bk.	13,229	13,169	12,529	13,352	13,581
167 York Bank	45,387	45,664	44,486	43,585	43,992

JOINT STOCK BANKS.

1 Bank of Westmoreland.....	12,225	9,758	8,819	8,269	8,114
2 Barnsley Banking Company	9,563	9,000	8,740	8,787	8,991
3 Bradford Banking Company	49,292	47,708	47,807	47,993	48,464
4 Bilston District Banking Company	9,418	8,097	8,795	9,597	9,910
5 Bank of Whitehaven.....	32,681	30,383	29,473	29,521	29,366
6 Bradford Commercial Banking Co.	20,084	19,430	19,723	20,304	19,681
7 Barton, Uttoxeter, and Staffordshire Union Bank	60,701	56,908	56,404	57,191	58,325
8 Chesterfield & N. Derbysh. Bk. Co.	10,421	10,402	10,025	9,801	9,500
9 Cumberland Union Banking Co....	35,395	33,831	33,967	33,314	34,415
10 Cheltenham & Gloucestershire Bk. Co.	12,786	9,208	9,717	9,698	9,248
11 Coventry and Warwickshire Bk. Co.	28,734	22,185	22,038	21,582	23,258
12 Coventry Union Banking Company	16,251	13,370	12,943	14,361	14,988
13 County of Gloucester Banking Co.	144,352	101,892	101,675	100,977	102,890
14 Carlisle & Cumberland Banking Co.	25,610	25,431	24,610	24,960	24,855
15 Carlisle City and District Bank ...	19,972	19,664	19,892	19,522	19,902
16 Dudley & West Bromwich Bk. Co.	37,696	37,620	36,705	37,204	36,668
17 Derby and Derbyshire Banking Co.	20,093	19,717	20,149	19,858	18,795
18 Darlington Dist. Joint Stock Bk. Co.	25,134	24,340	22,205	21,169	20,852
19 East of England Bank	25,025	27,804	25,206	22,617	22,660
20 Gloucestershire Banking Company	155,920	148,146	151,199	149,185	146,784
21 Halifax Joint Stock Bank.....	18,534	18,209	17,455	17,410	17,110
22 Huddersfield Banking Company...	37,354	34,040	30,911	34,473	35,807
23 Hull Banking Company	29,333	27,331	27,084	26,645	26,337
24 Halifax Commercial Banking Co....	13,733	13,555	13,335	13,266	12,293
25 Halifax & Huddersfield Union Bk.	44,137	40,732	39,890	42,380	41,575
26 Helston Banking Company	1,503	1,466	1,497	1,464	1,465
27 Herefordshire Banking Company..	25,047	20,762	21,700	20,695	19,121
28 Knaresborough and Claro Bk. Co.	28,059	26,845	27,173	27,465	28,799
29 Kingsbridge Joint Stock Bank	3,952	4,051	3,940	3,819	3,965
30 Lancaster Banking Company	64,311	59,797	58,328	55,584	55,660
31 Leeds Banking Company	23,076	22,759	25,639	20,906	22,378
32 Leicestershire Banking Company...	86,060	78,309	77,928	76,259	74,684
33 Lincoln and Lindsey Banking Co.	51,620	53,202	52,820	50,181	44,652
34 Leamington Priors and Warwick- shire Bank	13,875	10,154	10,575	10,537	10,929
35 Ludlow and Tenbury Bank	10,215	9,669	10,186	10,126	9,443

WEEKLY RETURNS OF BANKS OF ISSUE.

NAME OF BANK.	Authorised Issue.	AVERAGE AMOUNT.			
		Dec. 3.	Dec. 10.	Dec. 17.	Dec. 24.
	£	£	£	£	£
36 Moore & Robinson's Notts. Bank...	35,813	34,689	34,981	32,542	31,620
37 Nottingham and Notts. Banking Co.	29,477	29,061	28,330	27,580	27,295
38 National Provincial Bk. of England	442,371	419,714	419,760	419,492	448,821
39 North Wilts Banking Company ...	63,939	52,384	51,289	49,645	45,005
40 Northamptonshire Union Bank ...	84,356	74,190	72,892	69,482	69,717
41 Northamptonshire Banking Co. ...	26,401	26,739	25,277	24,946	24,545
42 North and South Wales Bank.....	63,951	47,024	46,196	45,575	44,346
43 Par's Leicestershire Banking Co....	59,300	51,165	50,182	50,202	49,766
44 Saddleworth Banking Company ...	8,122	2,610	2,474	2,450	2,243
45 Sheffield Banking Company.....	35,843	36,380	32,371	31,144	34,895
46 Stamford, Spalding & Boston Bk. Co.	55,721	50,083	50,494	50,007	50,943
47 Stuckey's Banking Company	356,976	340,420	344,171	346,984	347,767
48 Shropshire Banking Company.....	47,951	47,095	48,358	48,211	47,225
49 Stourbridge and Kidderminster Bk.	56,830	56,982	56,959	56,768	56,008
50 Sheffield and Hallamshire Bank ...	23,524	25,175	22,186	20,715	22,720
51 Sheffield & Rotherham Jt. Stock Bk.	52,496	52,270	52,333	52,318	51,546
52 Swaledale and Wensleydale Bank...	54,372	51,471	49,453	50,079	50,790
53 Storey and Thomas's Bank	9,714	10,020	9,820	9,165	9,802
54 Wolverhampton & Staffordsh. Bk...	35,378	35,708	36,050	33,650	32,209
55 Wakefield and Barnsley Union Bk...	14,604	13,673	13,455	12,814	12,779
56 Whitehaven Joint Stock Bank ...	31,916	28,818	27,771	27,607	26,581
57 Warwick and Leamington Bk. Co.	37,124	28,528	30,625	29,812	29,326
58 West of England and South Wales District Bank	83,535	77,588	80,573	77,827	76,574
59 Wilts & Dorset Banking Company	76,162	71,127	70,538	72,542	71,373
60 West Riding Union Banking Co....	34,029	32,469	31,245	31,784	32,155
61 Whitechurch & Ellesmere Bk. Co.	7,475	4,362	4,175	4,237	4,170
62 Worcester City and County Bk. Co.	6,848	4,825	4,506	4,868	4,748
63 York Union Banking Company ...	71,240	70,416	68,787	68,207	70,542
64 York City and County Banking Co.	94,695	94,444	92,393	92,184	90,995
65 Yorkshire Banking Company	122,532	116,351	119,517	126,345	124,850

Summary of the above Returns.

	Fixed Issues. £	Dec. 3. £	Dec. 10. £	Dec. 17. £	Dec. 24. £
167 Private Banks	4,616,609	3,870,682	3,838,451	3,817,139	3,713,706
65 Joint Stock Banks ..	3,325,857	3,081,656	3,065,714	3,043,302	3,033,300
232 Totals.....	7,942,466	6,952,338	6,904,165	6,860,441	6,747,006

Average Weekly Circulation of these Banks for the month ending December 24th :—

Private Banks.....£3,809,994

Joint Stock Banks.....3,055,993

Average Weekly Circulation of Private and Joint Stock Banks

ending as above£6,865,987

On a comparison of the above with the Returns for the Month ending 26th November last, it shows—

A decrease in the Notes of Private Banks, of£158,000

A decrease in the Notes of Joint Stock Banks, of 64,877

Total decrease on the Month.....£222,877

CIRCULATION RETURNS.

And as compared with the Month ending 24th December, 1852, it shows—

An increase in the Notes of Private Banks, of..... £161,880

An increase in the Notes of Joint Stock Banks, of 141,916

Total increase, as compared with the same period of last year .. £303,796

The following appears to be the comparative state of the circulation, as regards the fixed issues—

The Private Banks are below their fixed issues £806,615

The Joint Stock Banks are below their fixed issues 269,864

Total BELOW the fixed issues £1,076,479

Irish and Scotch Circulation Returns.

Average Circulation, and Coin held by the IRISH and SCOTCH BANKS during the four weeks ending Saturday, the 24th day of December, 1853.

IRISH BANKS.

NAME OF BANK.	Authorised Circulation.	Average Circulation during Four Weeks, ending as above.			Average Amount of Gold & Silver Coin held during Four Weeks ending as above.
		£5 and upwards.	Under £5.	Total.	
	£	£	£	£	£
Bank of Ireland.....	3,738,428	1,843,725	1,252,175	3,095,900	771,257
Provincial Bank of Ireland	927,667	336,207	639,211	975,418	233,719
Belfast Bank	281,611	58,311	444,936	503,247	285,428
Northern Bank	243,440	35,838	244,090	279,929	63,527
Ulster Bank	311,079	53,946	441,827	497,773	204,923
National Bank of Ireland...	761,757	384,771	636,908	1,021,679	393,220
Carriek-on-Suir Nat. Bank	24,084	11,085	13,428	24,513	5,555
Clonmel National Bank ...	66,428	25,139	29,628	54,768	10,591
TOTALS (Irish Banks) ...	6,354,494	2,749,022	3,704,203	6,453,227	1,968,220

SCOTCH BANKS.

Bank of Scotland	300,485	136,834	279,730	416,564	171,661
Royal Bank of Scotland ...	183,000	71,531	127,175	198,706	51,477
British Linen Company	438,024	188,707	335,431	524,138	146,791
Commercial Bk. of Scotland	374,880	169,908	356,839	526,747	239,730
National Bank of Scotland..	297,024	111,602	240,404	352,007	107,624
Union Bank of Scotland and Banking Com. in Aberdeen	415,690	168,840	359,147	527,987	162,267
Edinburgh & Glasgow Bk...	136,657	64,772	103,511	168,283	53,798
Aberdeen Town and Co. Bk.	70,133	35,529	75,405	110,924	46,881
North of Scotland Bk. Co...	154,319	87,096	116,372	203,468	60,387
Dundee Banking Company	33,451	9,316	28,631	37,947	6,688
Eastern Bank of Scotland...	33,636	16,557	27,054	43,611	11,245
Western Bank of Scotland..	337,938	125,996	361,320	487,316	234,369
Clydesdale Banking Co. ...	104,028	42,497	105,511	148,009	73,501
City of Glasgow Bank	72,921	69,008	99,289	168,297	105,901
Caledonian Banking Co. ...	53,434	24,861	53,922	78,783	34,805
Perth Banking Company ...	38,656	18,657	35,129	53,786	23,906
Central Bank of Scotland...	42,933	23,417	42,786	66,204	28,119
TOTALS (Scotch Banks)...	3,087,209	1,365,128	2,747,656	4,112,787	1,559,170

CIRCULATION RETURNS.

SUMMARY OF IRISH & SCOTCH RETURNS TO DECEMBER 24, 1853.

The Returns of Circulation of the Irish and Scotch Banks for the four weeks ending 24th December, when added together, give the following as the average weekly circulation of these banks during the past month, viz. :—

Average Circulation of the Irish Banks .. £6,453,227
Average Circulation of the Scotch Banks .. 4,112,787

Total Average Circulation of these Banks
for the past month £10,566,014

On comparing these amounts with the Returns for the month ending, 26th November last, they show—

Increase in the Circulation of Irish Banks .. £74,007
Decrease in the Circulation of Scotch Banks .. 173,699

Total decrease on the month £99,692

And as compared with the month ending December 24th, 1852, they show—

Increase in the Circulation of Irish Banks .. £767,786
Increase in the Circulation of Scotch Banks .. 348,723

Total increase on the year 1,116,509

The fixed issues of the Irish and Scotch Banks at the present time are given in the *Banking Almanac*, as follows :—

8 Banks in Ireland, allowed to issue. ... £6,354,494

18 Banks in Scotland, allowed to issue .. 3,087,209

26 Banks in all, allowed to issue..... £9,441,703

The following appears, therefore, to be the comparative state of the circulation :—

Irish Banks are above their fixed issue .. £98,733

Scotch Banks are above their fixed issue .. 1,025,578

Total above the fixed issue £1,124,311

The amounts of Gold and Silver held at the head offices of the several banks, during the past month, have been as follows :—

Gold and Silver held by the Irish Banks .. £1,968,220

Gold and Silver held by the Scotch Banks .. 1,539,170

Total of Gold and Silver Coin £3,527,390

Being an increase of £6,997 on the part of the Irish Banks, and an increase of £65,386 on the part of the Scotch Banks, on the several amounts held by them during the preceding month.

CIRCULATION OF THE UNITED KINGDOM TO DECEMBER 24, 1853.

The following is the state of the Note Circulation of the United Kingdom, for the month ending the 24th December, 1853.

Circulation of Notes for the Month ending December 24th, as compared with the previous month :

	Nov. 26.	Dec. 24.	Increase.	Decrease.
Bank of England	£21,935,951	£20,916,760	—	£1,019,191
Private Banks	3,967,994	3,809,994	—	158,000
Joint Stock Banks	3,120,870	3,055,993	—	64,877
Total in England	29,024,815	27,782,747	—	1,242,068
Scotland	4,286,486	4,112,787	—	173,699
Ireland	6,379,220	6,453,227	74,007	—
United Kingdom	39,690,521	38,348,761	74,007	1,415,767

The comparison of the month ending December 24th, 1852, with the month ending December 24th, 1853, shows a *decrease* in the Bank of England circulation of £1,518,412, an *increase* in Private Banks of £161,880, and an *increase* in Joint Stock Banks of £141,916 ; being a total *decrease* in England of £1,214,616 : while in Scotland there is an *increase* of £348,723 ; and in Ireland an *increase* of £767,786. Thus showing that the month ending 24th December, as compared with the same period last year, presents a *decrease* of £1,214,616 in England, and a *decrease* of £98,107 in the *United Kingdom*.

The return of Bullion in the Bank of England, for the month ending December 24th, gives an aggregate amount in both departments of £15,424,040. On a comparison of this with the Return for the month ending November 26th, there appears to be a *decrease* of £187,235 ; and a *decrease* of £5,884,183 as compared with the same period last year.

The stock of specie held by the Banks in Scotland and Ireland during the month ending 24th December, was £3,527,390 ; being an *increase* of £72,383 as compared with the return of the previous month, and an *increase* of £835,778 as compared with the corresponding period last year.

THE BANKERS' MAGAZINE,

AND

Journal of the Money Market.

MARCH, 1854.

THE PROSPECTS OF WAR.

It is now very evident that we are on the eve of the commencement of active hostilities with Russia. England and France, co-operating with each other, have endeavoured, through every species of honourable negotiation, to avert this calamity; but the Czar, thwarted in his ambitious designs upon the integrity of Turkey, has refused to accept the "olive branch," preferring the possible embroilment of the whole of Europe to any arrangement satisfactory to the Western Powers, and creditable to himself.

The measures adopted by government, although they have not received universal support, appear in a much more favourable light since the publication of the correspondence on the Turkish question; and, notwithstanding some few points afford food for discussion, the general policy of the ministry has been more dignified than it was originally believed to be. The only mistake—if it be one—which has been committed, is the extent of conciliation bestowed upon a power whose despotic administration would lead its ruler to presume that such a course indicated weakness; and that it was possible, by a strong exhibition of arrogance and obstinacy, to induce England and France to abandon to its fate a country they were bound to protect.

The reception of the autograph letter of Louis Napoleon we should, however, think will satisfy the French and English cabinets that nothing further remains to be done than to take active steps for bringing Nicholas to a proper sense of his position. No hope was entertained that such a missive would be of the least possible service; but the manner in which it has been rejected will prove

to our Gallic neighbours, as well as ourselves, that every expedient was attempted to conclude a pacific adjustment previously to the adoption of a war expenditure. Enthusiastic as we may all be in a cause savouring so extensively of resistance to oppression, the cost at which this is to be accomplished must be regarded as an element of consideration, and it will hereafter turn out to be of greater magnitude than many of us may anticipate. None are more keenly alive to this than those whose duty it is to watch the progress of the financial transactions of the day; and, in following out the views expressed in well-informed quarters, we shall allude to the contrast which the current phase of affairs presents, to that which would in all probability have existed had peace been maintained.

A war expenditure, when resolved upon, invariably increases the taxation of the nations whose representatives are engaged in it; it also leads to the enhancement of prices, and to the general derangement of trade, and, in the end, most frequently augments the capital of the debt. No exceptional case can here be taken: the consequences are certain, experience having already abundantly testified to their veracity. England, as she at this moment stands—sound and healthy as her credit undoubtedly is—will not escape these results; and although she may suffer less than either of the other European powers, the causes that have recently been at work to disturb her internal relations, will aggravate the evil if immediately followed by war.

And some of these causes are not purely local in their influence. A deficient harvest, the general advance in the price of provisions, the rise in wages—affect other interests besides our own, and are well calculated to awaken caution in the minds of those who guide their transactions, by carefully considering the prospects of the future. The healthiness of our commerce, especially with Australia, could not be more strongly manifested than in the course of events during the last six months; but the first great profits have passed away, and for two or three years at least are not again likely to be renewed.

The early fruits of this prosperity have, therefore, been realised. The rapid development of our trade has brought golden gain, but it has not been without alloy. The strength and sinew of the land have departed, to find a new home and new resources for their labour; and, although the mother-country has been liberally rewarded through the increase of connexion, the issue has not in all cases been satisfactory. What derisive taunts were uttered when, in the midst of the Australian and Californian imports, an increasing rate of interest was predicted! Yet it gradually took place, and has prevailed, without material abatement, since September.

England; we are proud to believe, is sound at the core, and that her finances are in a favourable condition. This, however, will not guard her from experiencing the harrassing effects of hostilities, or avoiding the responsibilities they must inevitably produce. Mitigated though, to a certain extent, they may be, the necessity of a speedy increase in taxation ought to be recognised; for, although only a few millions are required in the early stages of the estimates, these will be sensibly raised should the war become protracted. It will be useless to resist when once we are plunged into the gulph, and hence it will be as well to meet the difficulty with a good grace.

But, looking to our own difficulties in this emergency, we consider them altogether light compared with those which France will have to suffer. The organisation of her credit system from the commencement of the administration of Louis Napoleon, the extent of doubtful speculation, encouraged through the concessions for public works, and the suspicious facilities offered the government for raising whatever means they desired, are circumstances which press heavily upon remembrance. That money is now required to equip a naval and military armament, worthy of co-operation with England, is well established by the advance from the Bank of France, of £2,500,000, which it is also understood will be augmented, if necessary. A loan of even a larger amount, £8,000,000, has been mentioned; and it is quite certain that further assistance is requisite to enable her to sustain her general financial situation, which cannot fail to be embarrassed through a rupture with Russia.

That England and France will be put to serious inconvenience by maintaining the balance of power in Europe, is a fact that cannot be controverted. The commerce of each must suffer; so that, in a direct and in an indirect manner, they will be largely affected in a pecuniary sense. Russia and Turkey cannot withstand the blighting influence of hostilities upon their respective interests. It will be, however, a sorry condolence to the former to find her old ally ruined at the same moment with herself, because she had the courage to repel an invasion most audaciously commenced and most obstinately followed out.

These, then, are the prospects of war. Sombre as they seem, it is scarcely possible we should have been in a much better position, financially speaking, had a peace been arranged at the latest moment. Russia, it is true, would have saved her credit and rank in the scale of nations, and Turkey would have been relieved from a struggle which promises, sooner or later, to occasion her dissolution. The world would have also been spared the sickening details of the sacrifice of life in the fierce encounters by sea and land which, although pictured in the most

vivid colours that language can describe, carry grief and desolation into thousands of homes; but England, after all, financially speaking, would have had to bear the burden of the arrangement. The pressure might have come in a less discouraging form; there might have been, also, intervals of respite; but that it would have ensued, we see as clearly as we do the termination of the great conflict upon which we are about to enter.

The present war expenditure, even should it be excessive, will be disbursed in a right direction—the support of the honour of the country, and the protection of the weak against the strong. Whether an outlay of this description is preferable to the negotiation of foreign loans, is a question upon which some difference of opinion may exist. That the choice remains between the two, is, however, evident, from what is hourly transpiring. The treasury of the Ottoman government being exhausted, and Russia reduced to the same pitiable condition, we should have quickly been requested to administer to their wants; while Austria, whose available resources were never at so low an ebb, with two or three of the Italian states, would have constituted a catalogue of loan-recipients of the most rapacious and needy description. They are now, fortunately, prevented from putting forward their pretensions; and if they did, all—save and except in the case of France, who, from the straightforward conduct of the Emperor in the Eastern dispute, deserves support—would discover their inability to borrow unless on desperate terms. Russia and Austria would be placed without the pale—none but the most adventurous of the capitalist class would dare to bring out proposals connected with their names, and then we question if they would meet with success.

We are thus placed on the horns of a dilemma. Conclude a peace on whatever terms may be made, and we shall be immediately inundated with foreign loans. Carry out war and increase general expenditure, the contract of these general loans is delayed, if not prevented. The one consideration involves the assistance to needy governments who possess the will but not the power to injure permanently the tranquillity and prosperity of Europe; the other the maintenance of a dignified policy, which, while incurring some additional cost, leaves it to our pleasure to distinguish on future occasions between those who seek and those who deserve our assistance when it is in reality required. Russia cannot expect any tender sympathy in this respect, after her late aggravated conduct; and a reduction of her position and credit in the scale of nations will shortly show her that she has for a long time greatly over-estimated them.

TRADE AND BANKING IN AUSTRALIA.

As no sound view of the commerce of England can be taken without considering the important trade with Australia, so no comprehensive opinion of monetary affairs can be formed without recollecting the additions constantly being made to the wealth of the world by the gold discovered in that country. There is scarcely a civilised district that has not had some participation in that wealth; and in the United Kingdom especially it has been so palpable as to excite fears that the recent progress has been too rapid, and that the greatly increased exports would ultimately lead to a re-action, which would produce depression in trade, disturb ordinary monetary operations, and in the end be the cause of much general mischief. And, certainly, with the exports of 1853 showing an increase of not less than £16,000,000 over the exports of 1852—the aggregate of exports, too, for 1853 exceeding £94,000,000—these fears are not unreasonable. Nor is it to be denied that the rate at which we are now progressing, demands earnest and thoughtful attention.

No prudent man could venture during the greater part of last year, with the imperfect knowledge then possessed, to form a conclusive opinion upon the bounds to which trade should at present be confined. The alternations of public feeling clearly showed that the minds of commercial men were at first unduly elated with the confidence of great returns and rapid prosperity; then there was a marked gloom and despondency from the absence of remittances, which, although at one time attributed to any but the true cause, was at last admitted to be from over-trading; but it became apparent that it required a much shorter period than usual to right itself, that more reasonable expectations as to profits must be indulged in, and that in Australia, as in all other parts of the world, trade was not to be a means of gambling or rash speculation, but the result of care, forethought, and experience. With some, this old lesson of prudence has doubtless been bought at a painful cost; but that it is bought in this case, as by each generation in its turn, is of great service to the fluctuating operations of commerce. The laws of trade, like those of nature, are immutable; and just as satiety follows from too abundant a supply, so prices must conform to the extent of demand.

Properly to understand the trade with Australia, it is necessary to observe the increasing population. The wealth that has been developed has, of course, been the main impetus to trade; but its diffusion among a larger number than formerly occupied the country, has caused a demand for goods much greater than would otherwise have occurred. In almost all articles, too, the consumption has been larger, and luxuries have been more eagerly

sought after; so that not only has an augmentation of exports been inevitably necessary, but goods of a higher value have been required—the best, in fact, that art, science, or nature could produce. The population of the three most important colonies of Australia—New South Wales, Victoria, and South Australia—cannot yet be a million, probably indeed under 700,000; but their ideas of living are very different to those of any other mixed community. Nearly every colonist represents wealth that would warrant expectations different to those entertained upon trade generally; and, although this wealth has not justified the enormous exports to Australia, it has been fully equal to the value of the large stock of manufactures which has been transferred from this country. This utter dependence of Australia for nearly everything but food of the ordinary description, must continue so long as gold is produced in abundance; and the result will be, if the goods are of an imperishable character, that a more than common amount should be exported, in order to equalise the prices in a fairer degree to the prices in this country, and to cause the great wealth, now dormant in the banks' hands, to be represented by property, which must ultimately be a benefit to all parties concerned.

The constant importation of gold from Australia to this country is not the only proof of the riches of those colonies. Great as the aggregate amount undoubtedly is, there is still very considerable wealth that is essentially internal—the flocks and herds—the house and landed property—the reserves of coin and bullion in the banks' hands—the floating balances in the inter-colonial trade, and in the various branches of social industry almost daily springing up. Long before the gold-fields were thought of, there was something almost fabulous about the stock of sheep and cattle; and the value of land, while less free from dangerous speculation than at present, even then showed a truly magical power of increase. In addition to these signs of wealth being continued, and still rapidly developing themselves, there is a large amount of inter-colonial traffic. South Australia, for instance, after growing breadstuffs more than sufficient for its own wants, would in 1853 ship nearly £100,000 worth to the adjacent settlements at Melbourne and Sydney. The navigation of the river Murray will develop still further industry, and be the means of profitably employing a considerable amount of capital. Already there are eight steamers carrying merchandise in exchange for wool; and the country that will be opened up, the land that will be brought into cultivation, the townships that will soon appear, although requiring a considerable time to be perfectly realised, will, most unquestionably, be the early result of this successful enterprise into

the interior of Australia. In fact, wherever the mind rests, when considering the question of Australian interests, whether the immediate topic be mineral or commercial, pastoral or agricultural, it is clear that the rate of progress is different to that we have hitherto been accustomed to, that we now require to enlarge the scope of observation, and that old notions and prejudices must be reconsidered. America and Australia are the only countries that can be properly compared; and as they vie with each other in extending commerce, so by a singular coincidence, through the almost simultaneous discovery of gold in both regions, they are acting upon all the monetary operations of the world, and, it is to be hoped, adding to the happiness of mankind.

Nothing indeed more marvellously attests the wealth of Australia than recent banking statistics. They show an amount of commercial power, which, after the actual remittances to this country, goes a long way towards explaining the ease and rapidity with which the enormous exports of 1853 have been absorbed. The average statements of the banks in Sydney, to the 30th of June, 1853, are as follows:—

LIABILITIES.

	Notes in Circulation.	Bills in Circulation.	Balances due to other Banks.	Deposits.	Total.
	£	£	£	£	£
New South Wales..	380,156	6,429	124,783	1,667,886	2,179,254
Union of Australia..	217,932	44,740	..	710,977	973,549
Australasia.....	195,989	66,861	..	725,085	987,935
Commercial.....	183,688	..	9	764,874	948,571
Aust. Joint-Stock..	47,180	1,117	1,699	129,244	179,240
Totals....	1,024,945	119,147	126,491	3,997,966	5,268,549

ASSETS.

	Coin and Bullion.	Landed Property.	Notes and Bills of other Banks.	Balances due from other Banks.	Notes and Bills Discounted, and other Debts due to Banks.	Total.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
New South Wales	1,198,398	16,389	9,024	315,794	630,870	2,170,475
Union of Australia	353,339	14,384	7,762	..	478,860	854,345
Australasia....	570,589	8,769	1,957	..	384,318	965,633
Commercial....	398,657	11,236	..	373,374	388,015	1,171,282
Aust. Joint-Stock	106,592	1,163	709	34,664	137,942	281,070
Totals....	2,627,575	51,942	19,452	723,832	2,020,005	5,442,805

The banks in Melbourne, to the same date, furnish the following statistics:—

LIABILITIES.

	Notes in Circulation.	Bills in Circulation.	Balances due to other Banks.	Deposits.	Total.
	£	£	£	£	£
Union of Australia.	555,402	32,701	164	2,049,906	2,638,173
Australasia	550,592	74,701	..	2,297,143	2,922,436
New South Wales..	223,004	8,146	370,731	676,083	1,277,964
Victoria	166,883	663	28,423	530,834	726,803
Totals....	1,495,881	116,211	399,318	5,553,966	7,565,376

ASSETS.

	Specie.	Bullion.	Landed Property.	Debts due to Banks.	Government Securities.	Total.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Union of Aust.	844,284	574,026	17,630	660,409	..	2,096,349
Australasia ...	1,524,392	621,833	14,912	553,818	..	2,714,955
N. South Wales	323,715	371,403	6,795	342,655	..	1,044,568
Victoria	465,179	23,883	..	380,806	..	869,868
Totals..	3,157,570	1,591,145	39,337	1,937,688	..	6,725,740

The banking statistics of South Australia are not so complete; but, comparing the months of July 1852, and July 1853, they show the following satisfactory result:—

	Deposits.	Notes in Circulation.	Bills under Discount, and other Securities.	Coin and Bullion.
1852.	£	£	£	£
South Australian Bank	286,153	158,709	222,585	314,801
Bank of Australasia	86,003	5,491	97,526	97,635
Union Bank of Australia	79,754	68,825	66,937	112,325
Totals.....	451,910	233,025	387,048	524,761
1853.	£	£	£	£
South Australian Bank	889,614	135,961	196,030	851,897
Bank of Australasia	325,500	45,000	66,800	382,500
Union Bank of Australia	224,341	45,672	69,083	298,124
Totals.....	1,439,455	226,633	331,913	1,532,521

Some important points, worthy of notice, are involved in these statements. With such a plethoric supply of capital, it is obvious that those banks not of local origin must have the whole of their proprietors' capital in this country available for investment, and participating in the present enhanced rate of interest. From being formerly banks for lending, they have become banks of deposit, and, like the joint-stock banks in London, are carrying on their business exclusively upon the public money. It is of course out of their power to allow interest on the deposits received; indeed, it may be worth consideration whether the time is not fast approaching when they should make a charge for keeping an account where the average balance is below a certain point. Almost every person who is in active employment, and of prudent habits, is able to keep a balance at his credit; the consequence of which is, that the banks are burdened with an unusual number of accounts, and however gratifying, in a national sense, may be the proportion of individual depositors, compared with the aggregate population of the colonies, and the average sum upon the respective accounts, the expenses inseparable from such a system become doubly important when applied to a country where the opportunities of employing money are necessarily limited. Unlike England or other old countries, Australia has no marketable securities for money, such as Government funds or Exchequer bills, and is still less able to transfer money from one investment to another, receiving interest, and having the capital at command. The money-lending is almost restricted to the discount of good bills, which business is much less extensive than before the discovery of the gold-fields. Cash payments being more frequent than they were, bills of exchange are less in use, and hence fewer discounts are required. In proportion, however, as these operations decline, the exchange business with England and other parts of the world expands; and it must not be forgotten, that bullion is still being dealt in with advantage. Great care will be necessary in bringing the vast amount of unemployed capital into use, for it cannot long be dormant; but at present the evil to be feared does not seem to be connected with the English trade, or any inter-colonial traffic, but with land-jobbing, which shows an extent of speculation highly imprudent and even dangerous. The duty of banks will be to check this in every possible manner; and the new banks, in seeking a business, will do wisely in lending no encouragement to the extravagant prices land and house property have now reached. No need of new capital from England exists, for it will be seen that the banks with local proprietors are fast gaining ground in Melbourne and Sydney; and, as far as experience yet shows, they have

secured in the several colonies a very large amount of support. It is important, indeed, to observe in these growing communities, that not only in their political institutions and history, but also in their trade, and particularly in their banking, there are marked and distinctive features connected with the colonies, and that each has separate interests and associations which cannot be made to merge in those of adjacent settlements.

AMERICAN COUNTERFEIT NOTES.

THE Americans pride themselves upon being a "go-a-head" people, and certainly it is no vain allegation; but their march of progress has its drawbacks, and, to a certain extent, England does not lose much by comparison. Time and space it appears to be their object, if not to annihilate, at all events to reduce to within an impossible compass; consequently explosions both on land and water, very frequently resulting in the loss of life, which appears almost fabulous, are the consequence. Still, nothing daunted, "faster" is the cry. In public life or private society, in the Senate or the halls of justice, the same headlong course is exhibited, and expressions of dissent or assent in argument are generally settled by a resort to bowie knives and revolvers. Does any poor wretch commit an offence, public indignation is not sufficiently atoned by the infliction of punishment prescribed by law, but the populace not unfrequently inflict summary "justice" in the shape of "Lynching."

In commercial affairs, however, a more legitimate rivalry exists, and the rapid strides made by our Transatlantic brethren within the last few years has been greater than any other country can exhibit; but in one branch of their commercial institutions—banking—a wide field for improvement is open.

We have been induced to make these remarks by the perusal of a weekly publication, printed at New York, bearing the title of the *New York Bank Note List and Counterfeit Detector*, from which we gather some rather interesting and, at the same time, startling facts relative to the state and working of the banks throughout the Union; and which certainly, after making every allowance for the difference of the monetary systems of the two countries, falls far short of the standard of banking in this country.

From the paper alluded to, we find that in the United States there are at the present time no less than 1127 banking establishments, which are divided through the different States as follows:—In the State of Maine, 52; New Hampshire, 36; Vermont, 35; Massachusetts, 149; Rhode Island, 80; Con-

necticut, 60; New York City, 59; New York State, 277; New Jersey, 47; Pennsylvania, 55; Delaware, 7; Maryland, 28; District of Columbia, 43; Virginia, 13; North Carolina, 9; South Carolina, 16; Georgia, 14; Alabama, 5; Louisiana, 10; Ohio, 39; Indiana, 23; Illinois, 29; Kentucky, 8; Tennessee, 9; Missouri, 1; Michigan, 8; Wisconsin, 11; Iowa, 1; Minnesota, 2. The State of Mississippi is summed up in one line—"All the banks in this State are broken." And, although the same deplorable state of affairs is not apparent in any of the other States, yet we find some of them very closely approximating; for instance, in the district of Columbia, out of its 43 banks, we find ten with the brief description of "fraud" attached to them; six with the equally laconic intimation of "broken;" and one "closed."

One of the chief objects of the publication is to serve, as its title imports, as a detector against the numerous frauds upon the public which the lax system of banking in America subjects them to. With that view, a brief description of the notes of the various banks is given, and in an adjoining paragraph is described the forged note, pointing out wherein it differs from the original, and how it may quickly be detected; for instance, we find that the great majority of the forgeries—and according to the authority in question, "their name is Legion"—are notes of small value, made larger by the addition of a cipher, transferring "1" into "10," "10" into "100," &c. In other cases the old plates of banks that have long ceased to exist, are brought into requisition.

It appears that in the course of the week, for which the number of the paper now before us was issued, no less than eleven new forgeries were discovered; and in commenting on such an unsatisfactory state of things, and the facilities afforded for fraud by the present loose system, the editor remarks:—

"A paper currency, being a cheap and artificial representative exchange for labour, requires from the public and the government a constant supervision, to prevent its abuse, not only from unlawful issuing, or being put into circulation by improper persons, but, from its being the production of art, that it should advance in proportion to the improvements made in similar branches, so as to effectually protect the interests of the public. The production of bank notes cannot remain stationary, when surrounded by artistic, chemical and mechanical improvements, which place in the power of the public simpler plans of producing a like result; their value consists in the defiance they present against imitation and alteration; and it matters not what labour or skilled talent has been used in the original production, if simpler means are at the disposal of designing persons to produce similar results capable of deceiving the public; hence a bank note, being based on delineative art, should present an appearance in advance of all other branches. If these views had been understood and acted upon, it would have been the means of founding, by giving liberal encouragement to a variety of talent, a body of art-workers, without the aid or support of government; and the pecuniary interest of

the public would not have been sacrificed, as they now are, for the aggrau-
disement of a few establishments, and the production of bank notes on
mechanical principles. It is self-evident that no action of the civil authori-
ties can ever prevent this growing evil. The defect rests in the manner of
construction; and no amount of civil jurisdiction can prevent its extension
without an entire change of the system. The necessary principles for the
basis of a bank note to meet the wants of the country, appear to be but im-
perfectly understood. If we may form a judgment upon the present plan of
construction, all that appears necessary is to produce on a plate from dies a
series of pictures, and print therefrom, get them signed, and put them into
circulation; and the public are supposed, by intuition, to be enabled to judge
if it proceeds from a respectable establishment or from a disreputable one,
where the production is made up from the works of as good artists and by the
same means. It may not be generally known to the public how the work of
some of the best bank note engraving establishments are procured by counter-
feitures. In some instances after a bank has broken, and thereby inflicted
serious injury upon the public by the loss on their notes, their plates are so
disposed of that they fall into the hands of counterfeiters, and they are again
used, by the abrasion of a name and the substitution of another as a genuine
plate; or by the plates being touched up and hardened, dies are taken up
therefrom, and are again used in the production of spurious notes; and thus it
will be seen that counterfeiters can produce notes equal in workmanship to
those of the best establishments by using their original work."

With respect to the establishment of new banks, which appear
to be increasing throughout the States in much greater propor-
tion than public accommodation demands, the Governor of the
State of New York, in his recent message to the Legislature,
very pointedly alluded to the subject, and his remarks are equally
applicable to most of the other States. He says:—

"The number of banks and banking associations in the State of New York
is three hundred and twenty-four. There were forty-eight new institutions
established last year, and eighty-two since December, 1851, showing an in-
crease of one-third within two years. The additional capital created last year
was \$14,484,859, swelling the sum invested in banking to \$76,692,075. This
extraordinary increase is far beyond the proportionate growth of the business
of our country, and it occurs at a time when the importations of gold from
California and other sources meet a portion of the demand for a circulating
medium. A great number of new banks have recently been created in the
different States of the Union. This extraordinary expansion of our currency
indicates a highly speculative condition of financial affairs, which, unless
checked in due season, will terminate in disastrous revulsions."

THE BANK CHARTER ACT.

As the period approaches for the renewal of the Bank Charter,
we have, as usual, a variety of suggestions offered for the amend-
ment not only of that statute, but all others affecting banking.
In these, however, we too frequently observe evidence of the
development of crotchets which belong to the several schools of
currency, and which cannot be regarded as identified with prac-

tical experience in the business. Towards the latter, we confess, we have an anxious leaning; because, while giving due credit to the desirableness of introducing theoretical opinions, we, at the time, scarcely think them worthy of permanent adoption until they shall have been tested through the ordinary routine of every-day life. In this spirit, therefore, it is necessary to regard the future as well as the past; and, with the experience which can now be so readily acquired, it would be unpardonable if Parliament were to legislate without a further full consideration of the question.

On the present occasion we do not propose to go into the subject at length. Our purpose is to re-produce a letter which has been published in *The Times*, with the comments which the City editor of that paper has appended.

The letter runs as follows:—

“Sir,—It being now generally thought there must be some alteration in the banking laws, more especially the Act of 1844, I beg to offer some remarks, gained by experience, on the present system, leaving its correction to wiser heads than mine.

In 1844 the bank circulation was fixed at £14,000,000, for any amount of issue beyond which it must hold bullion.

In January, 1853, the bank circulation was £23,387,335, since which period commodities of most kinds have greatly risen in price, causing the country to require a larger circulation to conduct its ordinary business; in the face of which the bank has been compelled to restrict and reduce its circulation, notwithstanding an increase from $2\frac{1}{2}$ to 5 per cent. in its charges for accommodation, its circulation on January 7, 1854, being £21,348,200.

In your columns, a few days ago, you inserted a letter from a ‘Bank Manager,’ showing the trouble and inconvenience he has had to free himself from fines for over-issuing. The same remarks are applicable to most banks. I am compelled to issue none but Bank of England notes, on an average, for two days each week, notwithstanding my having greatly reduced the demand for my own notes, by persuading many who formerly took them to open an account, and give cheques for what they may require.

Since 1844, from different causes, the private and joint-stock banks’ authorised circulation has been reduced by upwards of £700,000, for which there is no substitute.

In some districts the circulation varies much with the different seasons of the year, which the banks are not able to meet by surpassing their authorised limits at one time, or a reduction at another. Thus, England, with greatly increased prices and trade, is compelled to transact all with a less amount of circulation than it had in 1844.

The Scotch and Irish banks are much better off than the English, as they can issue against any amount of bullion they may hold, in addition to their authorised amounts. Thus, while in Scotland the bullion has been about the same as it was in 1844, the circulation has at times been upwards of 30 per cent. more.

The Act of 1844 amounts almost to giving the present banking companies a monopoly, by its preventing the formation of new ones; for we find since that time only three new banking companies have been formed, while a greater number have ceased to exist. At times of excitement, I think the monthly publication of accounts would have a bad tendency. The public, seeing large

changes in a short time in any particular bank, and not knowing its cause, would very likely become suspicious, and cause any panic or pressure to be more severe. If the publication has no useful results (and I do not see that it has), I think it may with propriety be dispensed with, the extra labour required being considerable. Our present Chancellor of the Exchequer being so good a business man, I anticipate a relaxation of many of the existing provisions.

Looking at the matter in a very moderate manner, I think most people will admit that, from the general rise in prices, we must now require more than 10 per cent. increase of circulation over what we had this time last year, which is the case both in Scotland and Ireland; while we in England are compelled to struggle on with less, which I conceive to be the cause of the increased value of money, and not the scarcity of capital, the 'other deposits' in the bank being larger than they have been for some time, and considerably above the average for years.

Begging space for this, if you think it worthy, and enclosing my card,

I am, sir, your subscriber,

A BANKER."

"The writer of the above," remarks the City editor of *The Times*, "does not specify the nature of the alterations in the banking laws, which, in his view, are generally thought to be necessary; and if he believes them to be such as to affect the principle of the Act of 1844, he is as much doomed to disappointment as if he were waiting to see a revival of protection. The theory of that Act was sufficiently clear to command assent even when the legislature was influenced by the powerful interest that had grown up under the previous system, and nine years' subsequent experience has left no ground of opposition. In 1847 it crushed an extension of false credit such as had never before been witnessed, and in 1853 it kept the trade of the country in a condition which has enabled it to meet famine and war without the slightest disturbance. The fact of the mismanagement of the banking business of the Bank of England at the former period, having caused a panic, which frightened the ministry into a suspension of the Act, after it had done its work, and the tide had turned, has nothing to do with the question. That evil was predicted months before it occurred, and its consequences have since warned the bank from a repetition of their folly. Probably, however, the writer of the present communication merely refers to the necessity of some technical modifications in the arrangements for the periodical returns of the issues of the private banks; and, although it may be doubted if any real grievance can be established even in this respect, it is a point that may require discussion. At the time when Sir Robert Peel's measure was introduced, it was felt that its sole imperfection consisted in not extinguishing the circulation of private establishments altogether, by merging their issues in those of the Bank of England, on condition of their receiving, annually, from that institution, an estimated sum for the profits surrendered; and it is from this neglect that the only annoyances connected with the measure have arisen. With regard to the idea in the foregoing letter, that because prices have advanced, we require a larger circulation to meet the proportionably larger payments that have to be made, it need only be pointed out that when a rise of prices is occasioned by an un-

sual expenditure on foreign goods—whether from a bad harvest, or from national extravagance—the diminution that takes place in the circulation from the export of bullion, is the only cure for the evil, by creating a pressure for money, and a consequent exercise of economy; while, on the other hand, if it arises from an increased supply of gold throughout the world, an addition to that supply in the shape of paper representing gold, can only accelerate the movement. During the past year or two, both these causes have been at work. Among the remaining statements of the letter, the fact of the paper circulation of Scotland having at times been 30 per cent. above the proportion in this country, is merely attributable to the people having preferred paper to gold. The circulation has not been intrinsically larger, the banks having simply held an amount of specie that would otherwise have been in the hands of the public. The reason for the complaint that the Act of 1844 gives a monopoly to existing banking companies, is not stated. There are no impediments that would cause new banks to experience difficulties from which the old ones are exempt; and the circumstance that few are now created, is to be attributed to the disastrous recollections of 1837, and also to the law of liability, which deters influential persons from countenancing them. Although, in the face of that law, it is not impossible to find leading men who will join old concerns, whose character and business are thoroughly established, few are disposed to venture on a new experiment, however sound may be its prospects.

But there is one subject referred to in this communication, undoubtedly of great importance—namely, the diminution of £700,000 that has taken place since 1844, in the paper circulation of the country, partly through the failure of private banks of issue, and partly from their having entered into agreements to substitute the notes of the Bank of England for their own. There is no reason to believe that the sum which was adopted in 1844, as that at which the direct paper currency of the country might be safely fixed, was at all too high; and the abstraction of £700,000 from this amount has created a vacancy which has been filled up with gold, that might otherwise be employed for foreign payments. This is a circumstance not intended, and which should be remedied forthwith. Sir Robert Peel foresaw its probability, and made provision for it. The Act of 1844 contains a clause, by which the Government, under certain conditions, may empower the extinct amount to be replaced, but it has remained to this day a dead letter. If it were now made available, its effect would be equal to an importation of gold to the extent at least of two-thirds of the sum that has become deficient.”

Now, while confessing there is much sound sense in the views expressed with regard to the general operation of the Act in the two periods of pressure through which we have passed within the last seven years, we consider that alterations could be made which would render it much more effective than at present it appears to be. We, however, cannot agree with the opinion that “its

sole imperfection" consists "in its not having extinguished the circulation of private establishments altogether," since the monopoly which the Bank of England already possesses is an evil of sufficient magnitude in itself, without any endeavour being made to increase it. Were it purely a state institution, that would be quite a different thing. The proper plan would then be to have a universal paper currency, and one recognised only as the Government issue. But, while the bank stands on its present basis, the case is thoroughly different; and if such an innovation were attempted, it would be strongly resisted.

An extended circulation may be required when the whole of the circumstances attending the transition, now being experienced, from the gold discoveries of Australia and California are considered; and it certainly seems a little hasty to jump to a contrary conclusion before any discussion has taken place on the point. It is not probable that the bank will for years to come, if it ever should, be again placed in the position it was in October, 1847; but, remembering that it was then necessary for the Government to interfere, what harm could there be in allowing the directors a discretionary power to act if a relaxation of the existing system were temporarily required? The days of gold panics may be said to have passed, but other inconveniences may arise which would prove equally embarrassing. We are glad to perceive that the writer lays proper stress on the importance of taking steps to fill up the vacancy occasioned by the diminution of £700,000 in the paper circulation of the country since 1844; and the Government, we have no doubt, will see that the matter is not disregarded.

Among other panaceas for existing evils, our attention has been attracted to a currency scheme,* claiming Scottish parentage; but, although we must refrain from supporting it, the whole of our readers being interested, we extract its leading features for their information:—

"To submit (says the author) a plain and practical, and already tried scheme, for the cure of these evils.

The return to cash payments in 1819 was a just and bold measure, becoming an upright and great statesman. The only question is, whether Mr. Peel had duly profited by past experience, and re-established the gold currency on a sound practical basis. It seems indisputable that he did not; for he in reality merely returned to what had been proved impracticable in 1797, and which continued to be so during the whole war. He, therefore, simply restored a system which, under circumstances that had occurred, and might certainly occur again, had proved to be impracticable, and which has been proved so by the

* *The Bank Screw; or, War and the Gold Discoveries in connexion with the Money Market.* Houlston and Stoneman.

difficulties of the Bank and of the country, under less trying circumstances than war, more than once since 1819.

That the Government, in redeeming the pledge to return to cash payments as soon as possible after the peace, should, in 1819, succeed at once in establishing a substantial and perfect system, was hardly to be expected. More than twenty years had passed since the gold currency had broken down, and been succeeded by paper; and few public men then living had any perfect recollection of the working of the system which existed prior to 1797.

But Sir Robert Peel stood in a very different position in 1844, with the experience of above twenty years of a gold currency; and, in considering the cure of the evils of the system, we shall now take up the position in which he stood prior to the passing of the unfortunate act of 1844.

At that time, there were two totally different currencies and systems of banking in England and Scotland, which were working with very different results. In England, the currency was essentially gold. From 1819 downwards, during a period of profound peace, there had been in England a succession of convulsions in the money market, and the Bank of England had been at least twice upon the point of stopping cash payments. These difficulties in a time of peace, and the recollection of the forced restriction of cash payments in 1797, and during the whole war, should have led Sir Robert Peel to the conviction, that there was something essentially wrong in the principle of the English currency. In war, it had proved impossible to continue cash payments; and other circumstances, having the effect, for a shorter time, of drawing gold to the Continent, had evidently, during those twenty-three years, most seriously deranged our monetary system, and all commercial transactions.

At that time (1844), when Sir Robert Peel turned his eye to Scotland, he saw there a purely paper currency, always maintaining its value without the slightest depreciation—little, if at all, affected by the monetary convulsions which were constantly paralyzing the sister country—highly valued by the Scotch, who dreaded beyond measure the interference of the British Parliament with what they considered the fertile source of Scotland's improvement and advancing prosperity. Sir Robert, however, looked at Scotland's economical, useful, and steady currency, through the narrow and prejudiced eye of a London banker.

He gave all credit to our Scotch system of banking, but grudged to us the advantage of having our paper currency based on the Bank of England note; and, in place of attempting to apply to England what had worked so successfully in Scotland, he, by an act, attempted to assimilate to some extent the currency of Scotland to the expensive, cumbrous, and ever vacillating currency of England, and thereby involved poor Scotland in the subsequent money difficulties of 1847, which, under their former system, should in a great measure have been avoided.

In stating a cure for the evils of the British currency, exactly the opposite course shall now be followed; and it will be shown how that

currency, which has worked so admirably in Scotland, can with perfect safety and incalculable advantage be applied to England.

The paper currency of Scotland consisted of notes issued by chartered and joint-stock banks, either possessing large subscribed capital, or having numerous and wealthy shareholders personally responsible for the company. These banks were established on such a basis, that their stability was as firm as the Bank of England, or the national credit. Their business was conducted on principles safe for themselves, and convenient for all. Their notes were available capital lent out to the public. They received in deposit unemployed capital, from £10 and upwards, at a rate of interest profitable to small capitalists; and the banks thus formed the medium through which these sums were lent out, either in short bills or otherwise, as capital for manufacturing, agricultural, or mercantile enterprise. The Scotch system of banking was admitted, even in England, to be most enlightened, convenient, and safe.

The Scotch banks were not bound to receive bullion or gold, and were not bound to pay in gold; and their circulation was thus never affected by the state of the foreign exchanges. The currency of Scotland remained perfectly steady, increasing and decreasing at certain seasons to suit the wants of the country, and regulated by nothing else than the wants of the country, so far as these could be supplied with safety to the Bank.

The basis of the Scotch currency (and to this particular attention is earnestly desired) was the Bank of England note. The Scotch banks were bound to pay their notes in gold, or in Bank of England notes; and, as these last were convertible into gold, Scotch notes were, of course, always equal to gold, on the common axiom that "things which are equal to the same thing, are equal to one another."

That they must ever have been so is sound in principle; and Mr. Jones Loyd himself could not have alleged to Sir Robert Peel, that bank notes in Scotland were not at all times, since 1819, exactly and necessarily equivalent to gold.

It was, however, maintained that the Scotch, in basing their currency on Bank of England notes, enjoyed an undue advantage at the expense of England. They certainly had a great advantage over England, but not at her expense, as the result of the subsequent measure fully showed. The act of 1844, which was intended to take away this alleged unequal advantage, did, as already explained, only aggravate the difficulties of the Bank of England in 1847, by locking up needlessly in the Scotch banks above a million of gold.

Scotland did enjoy invaluable advantages in her currency; and the question ought to have been in 1844, and is now—Can such advantages be safely extended to England? Most unquestionably they can, and simply by adopting the modern free-trade principle of "letting alone,"—by withdrawing legislative protection to the Bank of England, and allowing to the people of England the free adoption of the Scotch system of banking, and paper currency.

Such a paper currency for England could not, of course, under the proposed system, be altogether based, as hitherto in Scotland, on the

Bank of England note; but it will be shown from the principles of the Scotch system, and the practice of the Scotch banks, that a substitute exactly similar, and possessing other advantages, can most readily be found as a basis for a general British currency.

The principle of the Scotch currency was, that Scotch notes were, at the will of the holder, convertible into Bank of England notes. In practice, however, Scotch notes were payable in Exchequer bills. Nobody ever called on the banks to give English notes for their own, unless occasionally to obtain a few for travelling expenses in England; but at certain short intervals—generally a week—the different banks exchanged their notes, and settled transactions by handing over Exchequer bills for the surplus or balance that any bank might have against another.

The principle, then, and the practice of the Scotch banks, alike naturally point out Exchequer bills or Government stock, at the current price for the day, as the most convenient basis for a general paper currency for both England and Scotland.

The plain practical remedy proposed for the evils of the English currency is, therefore, simply to withdraw restrictive and protective legislation, and to allow the people of England to adopt when they choose that system of banking, and that economical, useful, and steady currency, which have already been so completely successful in Scotland. But in place of basing that currency on notes of the Bank of England, as the Scotch notes were nominally, let the British notes hereafter be payable, as the Scotch are practically at this moment, in Exchequer bills or Government stock, at the current gold price.

Under this system, gold would still in effect form the basis of the currency, without forming a part of it; and in this manner a pure paper currency would be established, which would be constantly equal to gold, and totally unaffected in amount by the foreign exchanges. The same system worked most successfully in Scotland for very many years; and the experience of the Scotch banks has fully established that the obligation to convert into Exchequer bills or Government stock would be a perfect check alike on over-issues and depreciation.

The remedy proposed has been a tried and a successful one, and if adopted, the immense advantages are surely self-evident:—The tremendous screw of the Bank of England to protect its coffers would be no longer required; the value of gold and other articles would rise and fall only with the natural demand and supply, but would no longer be convulsed by fearful panics, as in 1826 and 1847, and others, intermediate, arising from the desperate efforts of the Bank to save its credit; the capital sunk idly, and worse than idly, in our gold currency, would be unloosed, and employed in manufactures, commerce, and agriculture; the annual loss from wearing of the gold coinage, and a considerable part of the expense of the mint, would be saved; the people of England would themselves furnish a currency, and therein an additional capital; banks would be founded in public estimation on real property, and their notes, secured in that property, would be an efficient addition to the floating and working capital of the country."

ALTERATION OF BANKING HOURS.

It was noticed in the *Bankers' Magazine* for February, that the directors of the Bank of England had announced their intention of commencing public business after the first of March, at 10 o'clock, A.M., instead of 9 as heretofore, and it was generally anticipated that the joint-stock banks and private banks would make arrangements for following the example. The annexed representation to the bankers of London, signed by a body of the largest traders in the city, shows, however, that the private bankers will not be able, if they consider the interests of their customers, to make this alteration :—

"The undersigned hear with surprise and regret that it is proposed to delay the opening of the London banks until 10 o'clock, instead of 9 o'clock, as hitherto. They beg their respective bankers to reconsider this subject, as, although it is true but few cheques are presented before 10 o'clock, yet those few are of the greatest importance; and the delay that must ensue in the payment of duties and otherwise from such an alteration, must prove most prejudicial to the commercial community."

The subjoined reply at once settles the question—the principal private bankers stating that "no such resolution has ever been adopted" by them. "It was obvious," remarks one of our daily contemporaries, "that the difficulty suggested could not be got over, and the private banks will therefore be unable to fall into the proposition of the Bank of England, but will begin at 9, as heretofore. It is, nevertheless, to be regretted that a uniform resolution could not be arrived at, since the proposed change would have inflicted no inconvenience upon the general public, while it would have comprised advantages by affording an hour before the commencement of payments, which would often prove valuable in cases of robbery, losses, or other casualties, that are not detected until just at the opening of business. Meanwhile, it is a characteristic fact, that the whole cause of the obstruction to the desired arrangement is attributed to the authorities of the Customs. The cheques required to be cashed between 9 and 10 are those of houses having to pay heavy duties, for which the Customs will accept nothing but Bank of England notes. Some years back, a memorial was addressed to the Treasury, pointing out the serious dangers and inconveniences involved in this practice, and the anxiety experienced by the mercantile community in being compelled to send large sums of money through the streets in the hands of their clerks. But, although the request to be allowed to make payment in cheques was coupled with the suggestion that they should all be marked by the bankers on whom they were drawn, to signify that they would be duly paid, or that, if this were not deemed sufficient, an amount of Consols should be transferred to the Customs Commissioners as security, it was peremptorily refused, with an intimation that 'their lordships' would consider it inconsistent with the safety of the public service :—

London, Feb. 13.

Gentlemen,—Referring to a communication which has appeared in the City article of *The Times* of this day, expressing surprise and regret at the supposed resolution of the bankers of the city of London not to open for

business until 10 o'clock, we beg most respectfully to inform you and the other gentlemen signing that document, that no such resolution has ever been adopted by us, and that we have uniformly opposed the change proposed, as an uncalled for and inconvenient alteration of the established hours of business in this city.

We are, gentlemen, your most obedient servants,
 GLYN, MILLS, and Co.,
 ROBERTS, CURTIS, and Co.,
 JONES LOYD, and Co.,
 PRESCOTT, GROTE, and Co.,
 TRAVERS and SONS,
 MOFFATT and Co.,
 BARCLAY and Co.,
 SMITH, PAYNE, and SMITHS,
 MARTIN and Co.,
 HANKEY and Co.,
 WILLIAMS, DEACON, and Co.,
 ROGERS, OLDING, and Co.,
 WILLIS, PERCIVAL, and Co.," &c.

BANKING IN FRANCE.

THE official detail of the operations of the Bank of France in 1853, presented by Count D'Argout, the governor, to the general assembly of the shareholders, on the 26th of January, has just been published. Regret is expressed at the death of M. Odier, *censeur* for thirty-four years, and of M. Halphen, one of the *régents*. With regard to the course of general operations, it is remarked :—

"Various circumstances influenced, in a marked manner, the operations of the establishment. Never at any period was the activity of trade, manufactures, public works, and speculations of all kinds, greater than in 1853, especially during the first nine months of the year; hence the transactions of the Bank were unusually important. The insufficiency of the harvest caused numerous purchases of corn to be made abroad; hence, a reduction in the metallic reserves has been occasioned. The constant increase in the importation of gold has considerably modified the nature of the metallic circulation of France. Formerly, this circulation consisted almost exclusively of pieces of silver; but at present, in the reserves of the Central Bank, and in the collections made at Paris, gold dominates. The fixity of the relative value of the two metals has undergone a certain alteration."

The report then gives the following details of the operations of the Bank :—

"In the year 1847—that which preceded the last revolution—the total operations were greater than they had ever been before, amounting to 2,714,000,000 francs; in 1849 they fell to 1,328,000,000 francs; in 1852 they rose to 2,540,000,000 francs; and, in 1853, attained the extraordinary amount of 3,964,000,000 francs. Thus, last year exceeded 1847 by 1,250,000,000 francs; 1849, by 2,636,000,000 francs; and 1852, by 1,424,000,000 francs. The total amount of commer-

cial bills discounted in 1853 was 2,842,000,000 francs, which was 1,018,000,000 francs more than in the preceding year. The advances made on *rentes* were 216,000,000 francs; whereas in the preceding year they were, owing to the conversion of the 5 per cents. into 4½, 330,000,000 francs. At the end of the year, the Bank held 43,000,000 francs of securities for such advances. The advances made on the shares of the Quatre Canaux rose from 22,500,000 francs in 1852, to 35,000,000 francs in 1853. The advances made on railway shares and bonds which, in 1852, were 193,000,000 francs, amounted to 522,000,000 francs; and the amount of such securities in hand on the 25th December last, was 84,000,000 francs. The discount of Treasury bills, which, in 1852, amounted to 7,900,000 francs, fell to 5,000,000 francs. But the Mint warrants, which, in 1852, were only discounted to the amount of 18,500,000 francs, rose to 246,900,000 francs. The Bank, in the course of the year, sent to its branches, or distributed amongst the public, 329,030,000 francs in gold. The Treasury, on 1st July last, paid the first instalment of 5,000,000 francs on the loan of 75,000,000 francs, made by the Bank in 1852, which loan is to be paid off in fifteen years. In 1853 the number of bills paid into the Central Bank for current accounts was 717,000, and the amount of them 925,000,000 francs; this was 155,000,000 francs more than in 1852. In 1853 the Central Bank made payments in notes to the amount of 7,488,000,000 francs, and in specie 1,536,000,000 francs, and the transfers were 17,025,000,000 francs; these items make a total of 26,049,000,000 francs, and they were more by 4,040,000,000 francs than that of 1852. The maximum of the current account with the Treasury was 144,000,000 francs, the minimum 39,000,000, the average 76,000,000 francs. The maximum of the various current accounts was 227,000,000 francs, the minimum 132,000,000 francs, and the average 172,000,000 francs. The maximum of the metallic reserve was, on 9th June, 534,000,000 francs; the minimum, on 29th Dec., 307,000,000 francs. The decline was continuing, and on the 26th ult. was 290,000,000 francs. After the revolution of 1848, the total amount of bills not paid, held by the central and branch banks, was 84,500,000 francs; but of that sum 83,000,000 has since been paid. A sum of 4,451,000 francs had besides been written off as loss, but 3,806,000 francs have since been recovered. The total operations of all the branch banks amounted to 2,098,000,000 francs, which was an increase of 792,000,000 francs as compared with 1852. The gross profits were 7,435,000 francs, and the net profits 4,582,000 francs. The four establishments whose operations were most important, were—Marseilles, for 372,600,000 francs; Lyons, for 242,700,000 francs; Bordeaux, for 167,500,000 francs; and Lille, 129,700,000 francs. Four branch banks—those of Avignon, Clermont-Ferrand, Nancy, and La Rochelle—did not cover their expenses by 166,000 francs. This was owing to extraordinary expenses having been necessary, and to the expenses of first establishment. Several new branches were authorised in 1853—namely, at La Rochelle, Nancy, Amiens, Toulon, and Nevers. The dividends, which in 1852 were 118 francs, were for 1853, 154 francs;

The only years in which they have been higher were in 1846 and 1847, when they were respectively 159 francs and 177 francs. The total expenses were 5,536,800 francs, which, from the increase of business and branch banks, new constructions and repairs, were more by 1,566,900 francs than in 1852. The report concludes by stating that the Bank had created a second *dépôt* for receiving *rentes*, shares, bonds, and securities of all kinds, and the dividends thereon, on the payment of a small sum annually; and by mentioning that in October last the Bank was obliged to raise its interest to 4 per cent., and on the 20th instant to 5 per cent."

RUSSIAN PAPER MONEY.

THE Emperor of Russia, to meet the extraordinary expenditure occasioned by his preparations for hostilities, has been compelled to increase his issues of paper money, and the following are the terms of the ukase published under his authority. It appears that, out of an augmentation to the extent of 30,000,000 of roubles, or about £4,800,000, authorised in 1841, the sum of £1,600,000 remains to be put forth, and that this is now to be used, while an additional total of 40,000,000 of roubles, or £6,400,000, is to be created and held at the service of the finance minister, upon his receiving the Imperial sanction for its disbursement. Against this new issue, as in the case of the former one, specie in the proportion of one-sixth is to be deposited; but, as the quarter whence it is to be obtained is not designated, the conjecture arises that the operation will be contrived merely by a nominal removal to a special account of some portion of the treasure already held. Even under the more favourable supposition that a portion of the new issue will be employed to purchase the guaranteed amount of bullion, so as to create to that extent a real instead of a fictitious security, it is evident that the measure is pregnant with the most disastrous consequences to the trade and credit of the country, and that a course is now commenced, calculated to end in all the evils of a depreciated currency, and to cause the St. Petersburg exchange to undergo, from the consequences of distrust, what has been so long experienced at Vienna. Since 1839, when Russia compromised as an insolvent, and paid the holders of her notes less than 30 per cent., her currency, although not absolutely convertible at pleasure, has been maintained at par, owing to its being limited to a specific amount. The proportion of notes to the legitimate requirements of trade having at length, however, been infringed, the notification that one-sixth of their amount in specie is safely locked in the hands of the Government will have little effect in convincing the holders of their value, when they require not only that that sixth, but also the remaining five-sixths, should be handed them in coin, to enable them to pay for foreign goods. The precedent, moreover, even if it had been introduced at first on a far more limited scale, is fatal to the financial existence of any nation, from the certainty it inspires that, once resorted to, the dangerous

facility is almost sure to be employed till confidence of every kind has been annihilated.

"By a ukase of His Imperial Majesty, issued to the Administrative Senate on the 17th of December last, under His Imperial Majesty's sign-manual, it was set forth,—

"To facilitate the operations of the imperial credit establishments, our manifest of the 1st of July, 1841, directed the issue of 30,000,000 roubles of credit notes, with the condition that, at each delivery of the same, the Treasuries and the Loan Bank should deposit in specie a sum equivalent to not less than the sixth part of the notes issued.

"Of the said amount of 30,000,000 roubles, by our manifest of the 1st of June, 1843, 10,000,000 roubles were placed to the credit of the active capital of the credit establishments, and 20,000,000 roubles were reckoned as a reserve, and their issue submitted thenceforth to our own supervision.

"In pursuance of authority of our ukase to the Senate, given on the 9th of March, 1849, there were issued out of this reserve capital, credit notes for 10,000,000 roubles, for the purpose of strengthening the operations of the Treasuries and the Loan Bank.

"At present, in consequence of the great extension during the past year of the operations of the imperial credit establishments, we have deemed it good, in accordance with the representation of the Minister of Finance, examined by the Council of State, to decide upon the issue from the reserve capital of the remaining 10,000,000 roubles; and, in order to provide in future sufficient means to the said credit establishments for the uninterrupted conduct and extension of their operations, to constitute for them a new reserve capital on the previous bases.

"In pursuance whereof we ordain,—

"1. The remaining 10,000,000 of credit notes, attributed by our manifest of June 1, 1843, to the reserve capital of the credit establishments, shall be delivered to the Treasuries and the Loan Bank, to be distributed among them according to their requirements.

"2. A new reserve capital of 40,000,000 roubles of credit notes shall be formed for the imperial credit establishments.

"3. The delivery of notes from this reserve capital shall take place in the event of an actual necessity to strengthen the imperial credit establishments, upon the presentation each time of a petition of the Minister of Finance, for our decision thereupon.

"4. Equivalent to the sixth part of the credit notes issued shall be transferred in specie from the credit establishments named to the office of imperial credit notes, to be added to the fund attributed to the credit notes.

"5. The completion of this fund, in case of need, shall be carried out on the same basis as fixed by our said manifest of June 1, 1843.

"The Administrative Senate is to take the necessary measures for the execution hereof."

THE ENGLISH, FRENCH, AND AMERICAN MINTS.

ONE of the most remarkable features of the year 1853 (says the *Economist*), in connection with the trade of the world, was the extraordinary extent of the operations of all the great mints, and the quantity of money coined, and in spite of which there appears to have been almost everywhere an equal complaint of the scarcity of a circulating medium. In this country it will be recollected that, during the whole

of last year, notwithstanding the unprecedented activity of the mint, great complaints were made of the want of coin, but especially of silver and copper, although the coinage of the former was at least four times greater than the average of preceding years, and of the latter three times greater. In France a similar complaint of the scarcity of coin has existed; but there it has probably arisen chiefly by the extensive change which has taken place from a silver to a gold currency. In the United States a similar complaint, especially in reference to silver coin, prevailed during the entire year. We have now before us accounts, derived from official sources, of the operations of the mints of London, Paris, and the United States, all of which exhibit very remarkable facts, when we bear in mind the complaints to which we have referred.

The following is a statement of the coinage at the Mint in London in each of the last six years:—

Year.	Gold Coinage.			Silver Coinage.			Copper Coinage.			Total Value of Coinage.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
1848..	2,451,999	10	1	35,442	0	0	2,688	0	0	2,490,129	10	1
1849..	2,177,955	1	1	119,592	0	0	1,792	0	0	2,299,339	1	1
1850..	1,491,836	17	9	129,096	0	0	448	0	0	1,621,380	17	9
1851..	4,400,411	4	9	87,868	6	0	3,584	0	0	4,491,863	10	9
1852..	8,742,270	12	11	189,596	12	7	3,796	16	0	8,935,664	1	6
1853..	11,952,391	5	11	701,544	14	3	9,073	0	0	12,663,009	0	2
	31,216,864	12	6	1,263,139	12	10	21,381	16	0	32,501,386	1	4

By this table it will be seen that the coinage of 1853 amounted in all to £12,663,009, of which £11,952,391 was gold, £701,544 silver, and £9,073 copper; and which represented the following number of pieces:—

Coins.		Number of Pieces.		
Gold	Sovereigns	10,597,993		13,306,789
	Half-sovereigns	2,708,796		
	Total of gold coins ..			
Silver	Crowns	466		25,187,592
	Half-crowns	837,847		
	Florins	5,349,862		
	Shillings	7,557,433		
	Sixpences	7,735,503		
	Fourpenny pieces	1,755,088		
	Threepenny pieces	1,614,793		
	Twopenny pieces	289,872		
	Penny pieces	46,788		
	Total of silver coins ..			12,813,804
Copper	Pence	1,983,744		
	Half-pence	2,733,696		
	Farthings	6,151,956		
	Half-farthings	1,941,408		
	Total of copper coins ..			51,308,185
	Total number of pieces coined ..			

The large quantity of silver and copper coinage in 1853, compared with preceding years, will be seen by referring to the above table.

The coinage in Paris in 1853 was as follows:—

	Gold.	No. of Pieces.	Value in Francs.	Value in Sterling.
Twenty-franc pieces..	15,641,500 ..	312,830,000 ..	£12,513,200	
Ten-franc pieces ..	1,763,346 ..	17,633,463 ..	705,336	
Total of gold ..	17,404,846 ..	330,463,463 ..	13,218,536	
Silver.				
Five-franc pieces ..	3,889,768 ..	19,448,840		
Two-franc pieces ..	115,996 ..	231,992		
One-franc pieces ..	182,412 ..	182,412		
Half-franc pieces ..	153,742 ..	76,871		
Twenty-cent. pieces..	748,318 ..	149,963		
Total silver ..	5,090,236 ..	20,089,778 ..	803,588	
Copper.				
Total ..	30,869,285 ..	1,974,939 ..	78,996	
Grand total ..	53,364,367 ..	352,528,180 ..	14,101,120	

Thus in France there were coined in 1853, 53,364,367 pieces, of the value of 352,528,180 francs, or, in British money, £14,101,120.

In the United States the coinage of 1853 was:—

	Pieces.	Value dollars.	Value in Sterling, at 4s.
Gold	7,252,576 ..	51,888,882 ..	£10,377,776
Silver	55,751,068 ..	7,852,571 ..	1,570,514
Copper	6,770,825 ..	67,059 ..	13,412
Total	69,775,469 ..	59,108,513 ..	£11,961,702

In the principal mints of the world there were, therefore, coined in 1853:—

Gold	London .. ..	.. ..	.. ..	£11,952,391
	Paris .. ..	.. ..	.. ..	13,218,536
	United States .. ..	.. ..	.. ..	10,377,776
	Total of gold coin			£35,548,703
Silver.....	London .. ..	.. ..	.. ..	£701,544
	Paris .. ..	.. ..	.. ..	803,588
	United States .. ..	.. ..	.. ..	1,570,514
	Total of silver			£3,075,646
Copper	London .. ..	.. ..	.. ..	£9,073
	Paris .. ..	.. ..	.. ..	78,996
	United States .. ..	.. ..	.. ..	13,412
	Total of copper			£101,481

And the total amount of coin of all kinds coined in the three mints is as follows :—

Gold	£35,548,703
Silver	3,075,646
Copper	101,481
	£38,725,830

Which consisted of no fewer than 174,448,021 pieces, divided in the following proportions :—

	Pieces.
London	51,308,185
Paris	53,364,367
United States	69,775,469

Such an enormous amount of coinage, and leaving still complaints of insufficient currency to conduct the domestic transactions of these three great countries, points to an increase of trade and activity in productive industry without any parallel in the history of the world.

Banking and Commercial Law.

ON THE SALE AND PURCHASE OF JOINT-STOCK BANK SHARES.

It has been decided that parties may enter into a preliminary contract for the sale and purchase of joint-stock bank shares, without having a writing. The necessity for a writing to certain contracts proceeds from their being within the statute of frauds (29 Car. 2, c. 3); and it has been held that the words of that act, "*goods, wares, and merchandizes*," do not apply to shares in a joint-stock banking company.—*Humble v. Mitchell*, 3 Perry and Davison, 141.

When a preliminary contract is entered into, and either party makes default, the other party may sue at law for damages, and in some cases may proceed in Chancery to compel the specific performance of the contract.

In the case of joint-stock bank shares, there are some impediments to carrying out the contract, which do not exist in railway and many other shares. Thus, the consent of the directors is generally required. It is the duty of the seller of the shares to procure this consent. In a case where the seller had signed the transfer, and the purchaser had paid the price, the directors refused to assent in consequence of some dispute between them and the seller; and it was held that the seller was bound to procure the assent of the directors, and that on his failing to do so, he could be compelled to return the purchase-money, the

shares having fallen in value, without the purchaser's first returning the transfers. The Court said—"With respect to the first point, we think that the defendant was bound to procure the assent of the directors, and to do all that was necessary to invest the plaintiff with the property in the shares. The cases that have been decided with respect to the obligation of the vendor of a lease to obtain the landlord's consent to an assignment when the lessee requires it, apply to this. The purchaser has a right to require the seller to give him the possession, or the means of obtaining the possession, of the thing purchased, or the consideration fails. The second point, that the contract could not be rescinded, because the shares had fallen, can hardly arise when the complaint of the plaintiff is, that he never has had the shares he purchased at all, although it might have been argued in case the plaintiff had actually received the shares, but proposed to rescind the contract on some other ground. The plaintiff has received no part of the consideration, and it is on that ground he seeks to recover back his money. Upon the last objection we entertained considerable doubts. Inconvenience and difficulty may be occasioned to the defendant, if the transfers executed by him are not returned or cancelled; but we think that the return or cancelling of the transfers is not a condition precedent to the plaintiff's right to recover the purchase-money, on failure of the defendant to give possession, or right of possession, to the thing sold. The instruments of transfer are collateral to the contract and the subject matter of sale; and, although the defendant may be entitled to require their re-delivery to him, we think the non-completion of the transfer such a failure of considerations as entitles the plaintiff to recover in this action, although the instruments executed by the defendant have not been returned. The case of *Scurfield v. Gowland* is in accordance with this view of the question."—*Leeman v. Lloyd*, 14 Law Journal (Q.B.), 165.

This assent of the directors must be given in conformity with the deed of settlement, otherwise they may repudiate it, provided the returns to the Stamp Office, under 7 Geo. 4, c. 46, do not contain the name of the purchaser as a shareholder. This was decided in a case in which the course adopted by the bank for many years had been followed; the Court saying—"It seems clear that there was no transfer in the mode provided by the deed; for it expressly stipulates that no person shall become or be registered as a shareholder without the consent of the board of directors. And it is an admitted fact, that there never was any consent of a board to the transfer in question. It was, indeed, contended by counsel that the words, 'the board of directors,' in clause 144, were not meant to designate a board strictly

so called, but were synonymous with the directors, or the body of directors; and, in confirmation of this view of the case, our attention was called to the provision of clause 45, by which it appears that two members are sufficient to constitute a board; whereas the consent of the board of directors, required in clause 144, is to be signed by three directors; showing, as was contended, that the board referred to could not be a meeting, not necessarily consisting of so many as three persons. But we cannot yield to this argument. Clauses 40 and 42 define accurately what is meant by a board, and we cannot read that word in the deed as having any meaning different from that which the parties themselves have given to it. There is nothing necessarily inconsistent in providing that the board—that is, a body which may consist of no more than two—shall be the parties to decide whether the transfer shall or shall not be allowed, and yet to require that the certificate of such consent shall be signed by three directors. The certificate need not be given at a board; it may be signed by any three directors, testifying the consent of the board in the mode pointed out by clause 144. We are, therefore, of opinion that there was certainly no such consent of a board of directors as is required by clause 144. It is not necessary to give any opinion on the point, whether, if three directors had given such certificate as is mentioned in that clause, the parties transferring and receiving the shares might not have been entitled, according to the due construction of the deed, to treat that certificate as conclusive evidence that the consent of the board had been duly given. It is sufficient for us to say that no such certificate was ever given; for that which was given on the 26th of August, 1847, is in no respect conformable with what is required in clause 144.”—*Bosanquet v. Shortridge*, 4 Exchequer Reports, 700.

It has, however, been held in Chancery that where a transfer of shares is made by a member to the company, the latter may, as between the parties to the transfer, dispense with the machinery which the legislature has rendered necessary to transfers in general; and the company cannot afterwards impeach the transaction.—*Taylor v. Hughes*, 2 Jones and Latouch, 24.

Another impediment which may arise to the completion of the transfer, may be the state of the account between the bank and the shareholder. Most deeds of settlement provide that the bank shall have a lien upon shares for any balance which may be due from the shareholder to the bank. Before the purchaser parts with his money, he ought to inquire if the bank claims any such lien.

Another impediment may arise from the shares being charged by order of a judge, under the 1 and 2 Vict., cap. 110. It has

been doubted whether such an order can be made; but there is a case in which it was made, and the Court of Exchequer sustained it.

The defendant held shares in the Union Bank of London, and judgment having been obtained in an action against him, a judge at chambers made an order under the 1 and 2 Vict., cap. 110, sec. 14, charging such shares with the judgment debt. On application to set aside such order, it appeared that the bank consisted of a great number of shareholders, and was carried on pursuant to the terms of a deed of settlement, by which it was provided, that the shares should not be transferred except by the consent of the directors; and also, that if any order or decree was made against any proprietor, by which his shares became charged, they were to be forfeited to the company. The company was not registered under the 7 and 8 Vict., cap. 110, but was entitled to sue and be sued by a public officer under the 7 and 8 Vict., cap. 113, sec. 47, and 7 Geo. IV., cap. 47:—Held per *Parke B.* and *Alderson B.*, that, it being doubtful whether the company was a public company or not, the order ought not to be set aside.—*Graham v. Connell*, 19 Law Journal (Ex.), 361.

Sufficient has been said to show the necessity of caution in selling and purchasing shares in joint-stock banks; for whilst, on the one hand, the purchaser may pay his money, and find he has nothing for it, so, on the other hand, the seller, who supposed his connection with the bank has terminated, may have it revived for the purpose of fixing him with some liability.

•THE BANK OF FRANCE.

THE *Moniteur* publishes the following monthly debtor and creditor account of the Bank of France, made up to the 10th of February:—

	DEBTOR.					F.	C.
Capital of the bank	..	..	..	..	..	91,250,000	0
Reserve of the bank	..	..	..	..	..	12,980,750	14
Reserve of the bank in landed property	..	..	..	..	..	4,000,000	0
Bank notes in circulation	..	..	..	..	..	488,652,000	0
Do. of the branch banks	..	..	..	..	..	135,055,175	0
Bank notes to order	..	..	..	..	..	7,252,031	89
Receipts payable at sight	..	..	..	..	..	10,101,160	0
Treasury account current, creditor	..	..	..	..	..	56,036,949	19
Sundry accounts current	..	..	..	..	..	135,924,719	33
Do. with the branch banks	..	..	..	..	..	26,590,194	0
Dividends payable	..	..	..	..	..	1,054,948	25
Discounts and sundry interests	..	..	..	..	..	3,477,336	51
Carried forward	..	..	..	..	..	F.972,375,264	31

	Brought forward	..	F.972,375,264	31
Commission on deposits	.. .. .	..	3,307	25
Rediscounted during the last six months	.. .	..	1,289,106	12
Received on account of protested bills	.. .. .	..	34,993	13
Sundries	.. .. .	..	7,886,258	93
			<u>F.981,588,929</u>	<u>74</u>

	CREDITOR.		F.	G.
Cash in hand		..	179,250,483	67
Do. in the branch banks		..	101,386,136	0
Commercial bills overdue		..	721,679	21
Commercial bills discounted, but not yet due, of which				
74,404,618f. were received from the branch banks	..	..	201,366,359	85
Do. in the branch banks		..	209,593,525	0
Advanced on a deposit of bullion		..	1,285,000	0
Do. by the branch banks		..	2,658,643	0
Advanced on French public securities		..	27,363,536	10
Do. by the branch banks		..	10,384,300	0
Advanced on railway securities		..	54,006,000	0
Do. by the branch banks		..	19,317,230	0
Advanced to the state on the treaty of June 30th, 1848	..	..	70,000,000	0
Discounted Treasury bonds for the Treasury		..	30,000,000	0
Government stock reserved		..	10,000,000	0
Do. disposable		..	55,505,958	62
Hotel and furniture of the bank		..	4,000,000	0
Landed property of the branch banks		..	3,881,739	0
Expense of the management of the bank		..	345,743	69
Sundries		..	524,195	60
			<u>F.981,588,929</u>	<u>74</u>

Certified by the Governor of the Bank of France, Count D'ARGOUT.

It appears, from the preceding account, that the cash in hand has decreased by 14,252,000f. The commercial bills discounted have increased by 7,994,000f. The advances on public securities have decreased by 4,688,000f. The advances on railway securities have decreased by 3,176,000f. The bank notes in circulation have decreased by 19,398,000f. The balance to the credit of the Treasury has increased by 7,612,000f. The sundry credits have decreased by 17,853,000f.

Legal Miscellany.

EXCHEQUER CHAMBER, Nov. 26.

(Court for the consideration of Crown cases reserved.—Present, Lord CAMPBELL, and Justices COLERIDGE, MAULE, WILLIAMS and TALFOURD, and Barons PARKE and PLATT).

THE QUEEN v. GARRETT.

The prisoner was tried before Mr. Baron Parke for a misdemeanour. The indictment contained several counts. It stated that, before and at the time of the

committing of the offence, the Union Bank of London were the correspondents of Duncan, Stennan and Co., of New York, for whom they were in the habit of paying money; that the prisoner, in March last, demanded payment of £1,200 from the Union Bank, on account of Duncan & Co., and pretended that he was authorised to do so by Duncan; and it was alleged, that the prisoner did this with intent to obtain the money, although he was not authorised by Duncan to make the demand. At the trial, it appeared that Duncan & Co. were in the habit of issuing circular letters of credit. The prisoner obtained a letter of credit from them for £210 upon the Union Bank; he altered it to £5,210, and then went to St. Petersburg, and produced it to Messrs. Wilson & Co., there, and obtained from them £1,200, and £2,500, and he gave them a cheque for £1,200, drawn by him on the Union Bank of London. In the meantime, the Union Bank had advice from Duncan, of the letter of credit for £210. The cheque for £1,200 was presented to the Union Bank, but payment was refused. The prisoner came to London, and was apprehended, and indicted for an attempt to obtain money from the Union Bank. It was then contended by the prisoner's counsel, that there was no offence committed in London, and that he had not committed the offence charged in the indictment. The learned judge left the intent to the jury, who found the prisoner "Guilty;" but the point was reserved, and also as to whether the prisoner meant to obtain the money for his own benefit.

Lord Campbell said—I am of opinion that this conviction cannot be supported. The question is, whether, supposing the Union Bank had honoured the draft, the prisoner could then have been indicted upon this statute for obtaining money on false pretences? I am clearly of opinion he could not. I do not proceed upon the ground that the offence was committed beyond the jurisdiction of the court, because, by the employment of an agent in this country, by a person living beyond the jurisdiction, the person so living beyond the jurisdiction may be amenable to the law of England, when he comes within it; but I am of opinion this would not have been an obtaining of money within the meaning of the act of Parliament. I think that contemplates the fact of money being obtained according to the wishes, or to gain some advantage for the person who makes the false pretence. Now, here it was not to gain any object by the prisoner—no advantage could arise to him from the cheque being honoured; he had reached his full object—he had gained the sum of his ambition when he was in St. Petersburg; he received the money, and put it in his pocket; it was indifferent to him whether afterwards Wilson obtained the money from the Union Bank; and no advantage could arise to the prisoner from that bill being honoured, but more to his advantage that it had been burnt, or had been sent to the bottom of the sea. Therefore, it seems to me that this cannot be considered as an obtaining of money within the meaning of this act of Parliament; for, as has been observed by Mr. Justice Coleridge, the object was, where there was a nice distinction between larceny and fraud, that the party should not go unpunished; but it is with a view to larceny that this enactment has been adopted by the legislature; therefore, with regard to larceny, we must see whether there must not be some advantage to be obtained by the person who took the chattel of the other; it is not necessarily a pecuniary advantage—it would not amount to larceny, if we proceed upon the finding of the jury; but we think the finding of the jury amounts to this—that the prisoner foresaw, or anticipated that it would be presented to the Union Bank—not that he wished it to be done. In one sense it might be said that he meant it, because of the maxim that every one means that that should be done which is a natural consequence of the act that he does; and, in that sense, it might be said that the prisoner meant that the cheque should be presented and paid; but that cannot be adopted to show

that it was the real wish of the party that the cheque should be honoured, for it seems to me that it would be a confounding of offences altogether. There is a gross fraud, but no obtaining of money by false pretences, within the meaning of this act of Parliament.

Conviction reversed.

Reports of Joint-Stock Banks.

LONDON AND COUNTY BANKING COMPANY.

THE annual meeting of this company was held the 2nd of February, at the London Tavern, Bishopsgate-street; John Sadleir, Esq., M.P., took the chair.

The directors' report for the half-year ending the 31st of December, 1853, showed—"That the net profit of the bank for the past half-year, after making provision for bad and doubtful debts, amounts to £33,256 13s. 5d., which, with £8,520 4s. 3d. brought forward as a surplus on the half-year ending 30th June, makes a total of £41,776 17s. 8d., from which the directors have carried £13,238 4s. 3d. to the credit of the guarantee fund, thereby increasing that fund to £58,903 5s. 10d. The directors recommended that a dividend at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum for the half-year ending the 31st of December, 1853, and a bonus of 4 per cent. (equal to a 10 per cent. dividend on the year), both free from income-tax, should be declared. This would leave £1,342 7s. 9d., of which the directors recommended that £383 14s. 6d., being 1 per cent. on the year's dividend, should be placed to the credit of the provident fund, and £958 13s. 3d. be further added to the guarantee fund. The guarantee fund would then amount to £59,861 19s. 1d. The directors recommended the proprietors to rescind the resolution passed in the year 1840, at a general meeting of the proprietors, reducing the capital of the company from the amount of two millions, as fixed by the deed of settlement, to one million, and the number of shares from 40,000 to 20,000."

Balance-Sheet, December 31st, 1853.

Dr.—To capital	..	..	..	..	£394,135	0	0
Reserved fund	..	..	..	..	45,665	1	7
Customers' balances, &c.	..	..	..	..	3,417,130	7	10
Profit and loss balance brought forward from last account	..	..	..	..	8,520	4	3
Net profit for the half-year, after the payment of £16,434 6s. 3d. for interest to customers	..	..	..	..	33,256	13	5
					<u>£3,898,707</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>1</u>

Cr.—By cash in hand and at call, government and other securities, discounted bills, &c.	..	..	..	..	£3,868,315	0	9
Bank premises, freehold and leasehold, trade fixtures, &c.	..	..	..	..	30,392	6	4
					<u>£3,898,707</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>1</u>

<i>Profit and Loss Account.</i>			
<i>Dr.</i> —To guarantee fund	£13,238	4	3
Half-year's dividend, at 6 per cent. per annum	11,655	8	4
Bonus of 4 per cent.	15,540	17	4
Balance at disposal of the shareholders ..	1,342	7	9
	<u>£41,776</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>8</u>
<i>Cr.</i> —By balance from last account	£8,520	4	3
Net profit for the half-year	33,256	13	5
	<u>£41,776</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>8</u>

The chairman said, before he took the sense of the meeting in respect to the report and balance-sheet now presented to them, he should respectively invite the attention of the meeting to one or two points. In regard to the appropriation of the profit for the year just elapsed, he would state that the directors were empowered by their deed to appropriate what they deemed sufficient to the guarantee fund, provided it did not exceed in any year one-fourth of the gross amount of profit.

A proprietor asked the extent to which they intended to carry this reserve fund.

The chairman said, that on that subject they would prefer taking the opinion of the proprietors. (Hear, hear.) He was happy to say that the profits arose not from any windfall, but from the ordinary trading operations of the bank. (Hear, hear.) He would enter more fully, if it were required, into the reasons why the directors had agreed to add this amount to the reserve fund; but he thought it would be unnecessary. After making the various deductions stated in the report, and adding to the reserve fund, the directors were enabled now to offer them a dividend after the rate of 6 per cent., and a bonus of 4 per cent., making up together a 10 per cent. dividend. He thought they were quite justified in that recommendation. (Hear, hear.) The appropriation of a further sum to the fund for the benefit of the officers of the establishment, was an act which also affected the welfare of the proprietors at large. (Hear, hear.) It would, no doubt, be interesting to them to know that this provident fund exceeded at that time £5,000, in addition to which they had a clerks' guarantee fund at present exceeding £1,500. (Hear, hear.) The object of these funds was to guarantee the families of their officers against the sad consequences of any sudden calamity happening to themselves. It would therefore be a pleasing duty for them to agree to the appropriation of £958 13s. 3d. to the guarantee fund, and that a further sum of £383 14s. 6d. be given to the provident fund. The further sum now proposed to be added to the guarantee fund of the company would increase it to the sum of £59,861 19s. 1d. (Hear, hear.) After the general business of the day, a special meeting would take place for altering the deeds, and replacing them in their former position, as to the amount of capital required for carrying on the operations of the bank. It might be recollected that they started with a plan for raising £2,000,000 of capital, and that, in 1840, it was recommended to reduce that amount to £1,000,000, and the 40,000 to 20,000 shares. In his humble judgment the amount of £1,000,000 was now insufficient, looking at the expanding trade of the country and the widening circle of the operations of this company. Now, he thought they would agree with him that this rule of the bank, so limiting the capital, should be rescinded, and that it should be left to the directors to avail themselves of this further increase of capital,

when deemed advisable. (Hear, hear.) For this purpose, the directors thought it would be much better to issue new shares than to make additional calls on those shares which were already in the hands of the public. (Hear, hear.) The chairman concluded by moving the adoption of the report and accounts.

J. G. Frith, Esq., seconded the motion.

Some disturbance took place in the harmony of the meeting by an amendment, proposed on the part of a gentleman who was said to have been formerly connected with the bank, "requesting an explanation of the conduct of the hon. chairman on a late occasion;" but it seemed to be repugnant to the feelings of the meeting, and from the general dissent expressed, the mover of the amendment was led to withdraw altogether.

The report and dividend were then adopted unanimously.

The retiring directors were re-elected; and Messrs. Burmester, Overton, and Wright were elected auditors.

A vote of thanks was then passed to Mr. Luard, the manager, to the sub-managers, and to the other officers of the establishment, which was agreed to unanimously.

A resolution was also passed for increasing the salary of the directors by £2,000 per annum.

The chairman stated that the meeting would now be made special, for increasing the capital of the bank to £2,000,000, by the issue of 20,000 new shares. It was necessary for them to take this power, if not required at present, in order that they might be armed against any possible state of things which might arise in the populous districts by which they were surrounded; the directors would not be hasty to increase their paid-up capital, unless they found it absolutely requisite for the interests of the proprietors. (Hear, hear.)

J. G. Frith, Esq., seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

The Rev. Mr. Johnson moved, and Mr. Richmond seconded, a vote of thanks to the chairman and directors, which was passed, and the meeting adjourned.

WARRINGTON SAVINGS' BANK AND ANNUITY SOCIETY.

THE annual meeting of the trustees and managers of this bank took place on the 20th of December, Mr. Wilson Patten, M.P., in the chair, when it was agreed to adopt the report of the auditors appointed to examine the accounts for the year ending 20th November, 1853.

The auditors of the Warrington Savings' Bank, in presenting their annual statement of accounts to the trustees and managers of the institution, take occasion briefly to remark upon a few points connected with the proceedings of the past year, and the gratifying position of the bank at its close. Your auditors observe that the amount due to depositors on the 20th of November last has reached a larger sum than at any previous period since the formation of the bank, the balance on that day amounting to £142,828 15s. 11d., being an increase of £10,511 10s. as compared with the former year. Your auditors have the satisfaction of finding that, coupled with this large increase in the balance due to depositors, there has been a considerable extension of the business of the institution, as evidenced by the fact that there are now 3,816 accounts open, which show an excess over last year (1852) of 260, whilst the amount deposited in 4,374 sums has reached £31,676 0s. 7d., which exceeds the previous years by £5,033 2s. 4d. During the year, 627 new accounts have been opened and 177 old accounts re-opened, whilst only 544 have been closed. The increase in the number of transactions with the depositors is also an interesting feature in the operations of the past year. There have been 4,374

deposits made, averaging £7 4s. 10d. each, and 1,909 repayments, in all 6,283 transactions; whilst in the year ending 20th November, 1852, there were 3,798 deposits, averaging £7 0s. 3d. each, and 1,833 repayments, in all 5,631 transactions; and, in drawing this comparison with the former year, it should be borne in mind that the result of that year showed a more extended business and a much larger amount of deposits than in any previous year, with the exception of 1844. With regard to the income and expenditure of the present year, your auditors find that the excess of interest, after apportioning £3,954 18s. to the depositors, amounts to £491 19s. 1d., to meet the expenses of management, which have amounted to £434 0s. 2d., leaving a surplus on the year of £57 18s. 11d. to be added to the balance of the profit and loss account. The reserved fund now amounts to £398 19s. 7d. Your auditors do not consider that there should be any alteration in the rate of interest to be allowed to depositors.

Your auditors append to this report an interesting summary of the year's proceedings, showing the number and amount of deposits and payments monthly, with the number of accounts opened and closed, and the increase or decrease as it occurred. They also append the usual abstract of the business done on Saturday evenings, which still continues to increase rapidly; the deposits on these evenings during the last year, have amounted to £4,019 1s. 1d. more than the withdrawals, and have increased from £1,761 8s. 5d. in the first year of opening (1849) to £7,123 11s. in 1853.

A statement has also been prepared, under the direction of the actuary, showing the amount due to the various classes of depositors, arranged according to their several occupations or trades, with the number of accounts open in each class; and as this return, on which considerable labour and attention have been bestowed by all the paid officers of the institution, contains much desirable information which the trustees and managers have not hitherto obtained, your auditors desire to direct your attention to it.—This statement will be appended to the report.

In the annuity department your auditors have to report the purchase of only one immediate annuity of £18 during the year; and it is a matter of regret to them that the labouring classes do not avail themselves more largely of these annuities, considering the very favourable terms on which they are granted.—The immediate annuities now payable at this institution, amount to £198 per annum, and the deferred annuities receivable to £3 13s. 6d.

In conclusion, your auditors would respectfully, but strongly, urge all parties connected with the institution to endeavour, in every way that lies in their power, to extend its usefulness and promote its efficiency.

*Savings' Bank, Warrington,
19th December, 1853.*

HENRY WHITE,
EDMUND ROBINSON, } *Auditors.*
CHAS J. HOLMES, }

SHEFFIELD BANKING COMPANY.

THE twenty-second annual meeting of the shareholders of this bank was held on the 27th January, S. Bailey, Esq. in the chair, when the following report was presented:—

At no former annual meeting have the directors of the company met their constituents with more unalloyed satisfaction than that which they feel on the present occasion. The prosperity of the bank, from the beginning to the end of the year over which this report extends, has been unvaried, and an increase of business has had its natural result in an increase of profit. The profit and loss account for the year 1853 shows a net gain of £21,522 4s. 6d., being £4,151 2s. 4d. more than that of the preceding year. The directors, in the

exercise of the discretion confided to them, have apportioned this large amount in the following manner:—

For dividend on the paid-up capital at the rate of					
15 per cent.	..	..	..	..	£16,582 10 0
For income-tax	..	..	..	..	299 17 5
For the surplus fund	..	..	..	..	4,639 17 1
					£21,522 4 6

The dividend now declared will be payable on Monday, the 13th February next. The directors feel much pleasure in not having to qualify the satisfactory statement just submitted to you by the announcement of any considerable bad debts. On a careful review of outstanding balances, they can find only about half a dozen, amounting in the whole to £237 6s. 5d., which they are justified in writing off as irrecoverable or doubtful; and even this small aggregate of loss is neutralised by their having recovered several debts, or portions of debt, amounting to £236 17s. 3d., which they had in former years estimated as irretrievably bad. Hence the whole balance carried at the close of the year from the bad debt account to the debit of the surplus fund, is actually no more than 9s. 2d. Before quitting this subject, the directors have to mention an exceedingly gratifying occurrence which, from the period when it was first intimated to them, belongs to the present report, although the financial result will not enter into the accounts laid before the shareholders until our next annual meeting. About the middle of last December, a gentleman, formerly partner in two firms, by whose failure the bank had sustained a considerable loss, communicated to the directors his intention to reimburse them not only for his own share of the deficiency, but also for half the share of his deceased father, who was one of his partners—an intention which has been fulfilled in the present month by the payment of £495 8s. 10d. This discharge of a debt, from which he had long ago obtained a legal release, is an act of integrity at once so honourable to the individual and of so exemplary a character in a mercantile community, that the directors deem it a duty in this instance to break through their rule of secrecy respecting their customers' accounts, by making the transaction publicly known. The gentleman here referred to is their respected townsman, Mr. Richard Solly. It is another gratifying circumstance in the year's transactions, that the balance of profit and loss account already mentioned, is the net gain, after deducting not only the ordinary expenses of business, but the whole of the charges incurred up to the 31st of December in making the extensive alterations, not yet completed, in the banking-house of the company. These charges are very considerable, and there are more to follow; but the directors feel assured that their fellow-shareholders will unite with them in opinion, that whatever is done in the improvement of the building and in providing additional accommodation for business, should be on a scale and in a style suited to the extensive and prosperous establishment which their bank has now become. The directors could not, if they were inclined, omit to record in their report, that on the 28th of February last, a special meeting of the shareholders was held in the banking house, at which it was resolved that £500 out of the surplus fund of the company should be appropriated to the purchase of plate to be presented to the directors, as an acknowledgment of their valuable services, and in commemoration of the twenty-first anniversary of the establishment of the bank. This resolution having been subsequently carried out, it only remains for the directors to say on the present occasion, that the considerate kindness which prompted it is duly appreciated by every individual on whom the honour was conferred. It was necessary to advert to this occurrence, in order that the

directors might bring together the several items which relate to the surplus fund.

On the 31st December, 1852, the said fund was ..	£31,798	1	4
The amount of profits transferred to it in 1853, is ..	4,639	17	1

Together .. £36,437 18 5

From which there is to deduct—

Vote of plate to the directors .. £500 0 0

Balance of bad debt account .. 0 9 2

500 9 2

Leaving the amount on 31st December, 1853 £35,937 9 3

In conclusion, the directors are happy to add to the other favourable announcements in this report, that the branch of Rotherham continues to be well conducted and profitable.

General Balance-Sheet of the Sheffield Banking Company, 31st December, 1853.

ASSETS.

Cr.—By bills, notes and cash in hand, and balances

owing to the Company £922,341 10 9

Stamps on hand 43 17 0

Bank premises and furniture at Sheffield and

Rotherham 4,226 16 9

£926,612 4 6

LIABILITIES.

Dr.—To paid-up capital of £75 per share, on 1,474

shares £110,550 0 0

Surplus fund 35,937 9 3

Balances of accounts due to customers, de-

posits, and notes in circulation .. 763,542 5 3

Balance of profit and loss to be divided .. 16,582 10 0

£926,612 4 6

The report and accounts having been adopted, votes of thanks were passed to the directors for management, &c., after which the meeting separated.

PARES'S LEICESTERSHIRE BANKING COMPANY.

THE eighteenth annual general meeting of the proprietors of this bank was held at Leicester on the 1st February, Sir F. W. Heygate, Bart., in the chair, when the following report was presented:—

“It affords the directors much pleasure to inform the proprietors that, after a year marked by an extreme change in the value of money, the position of the bank continues most satisfactory. The large extension of the trade and commerce of the country which the past year has witnessed, has not escaped the notice of the directors; and they have much pleasure in being able to state that the business of the bank has experienced a sound and proportionate increase. The profits of the bank, after paying expenses and losses, and making ample allowance for doubtful debts, amount to the sum of £20,013 0s. 2d., which includes the interest on the reserved fund; and the directors recommend the payment of a dividend for the half-year of 11s. per share (deducting the

income-tax), a similar amount having been paid for the previous half-year, and that the balance, amounting to the sum of £5,163 0s. 2d., be added to the reserved fund.

Amount of reserved fund as per last report, after deducting the £500 voted at the last meeting ..	£32,736	6	5
Interest at 3 per cent.	£982	1	6
Balance of profit	4,180	18	8
		<u>5,163</u>	<u>0 2</u>
Total, 31st December, 1853 ..	£37,899	6	7

The paid up capital of the bank amounts to the sum of £148,500. £11 being paid up on each share, and, with the reserved fund as above stated, makes a total of £186,399 6s. 7d."

The report was received and adopted, and Sir F. W. Heygate, Bart., and I. Hodgson, Esq., were re-elected directors of this company. The proceedings concluded with the usual votes of thanks.

BILSTON DISTRICT BANKING COMPANY.

THE seventeenth annual general meeting of this bank was held at Wolverhampton on the 7th of February, W. H. Sparrow, Esq., in the chair, when the following report was adopted:—

Your directors have to report that they have audited the accounts of the bank for the year ending 31st December last, which, after paying income-tax and making provision for bad and doubtful debts, have produced a profit of £3,149 11s. 3d. A dividend of 3½ per cent. for the half-year ending 30th June has been already paid; interest at the rate of 3 per cent. has been added to the guarantee fund of last year, and a balance of £1,823 3s. 1d. remains to be disposed of by the present meeting. The directors recommend you to declare a dividend of 4 per cent. for the half-year ending 31st December, and to place the surplus to the guarantee fund, which will then amount to £9,647 0s. 11d. Annexed are statements of the profit account and guarantee fund, with the surplus disposed of as the directors recommend.

1853.			
Sept. 1.	Dividend of 3½ per cent.	£1,063	2 6
Dec. 31.	Interest upon guarantee fund	263	5 8
	Proposed dividend of 4 per cent.	1,215	0 0
	Surplus	608	3 1
	Profit	<u>£3,149</u>	<u>11 3</u>
	Guarantee fund, 1852	£8,775	12 2
	Interest thereon at 3 per cent.	£263	5 8
	Surplus profit	608	3 1
		<u>871</u>	<u>8 9</u>
	Present guarantee fund	<u>£9,647</u>	<u>0 11</u>

The report was received and approved, and a dividend of 4 per cent. for the half-year ending the 31st of December, declared payable at the bank on or after the 1st day of March. The usual votes of thanks concluded the proceedings.

THE CARLISLE AND CUMBERLAND BANKING COMPANY.

THE seventeenth annual general meeting of this bank was held the 1st of February, J. K. Wilson, Esq., in the chair, when the following report was presented:—

The directors have the satisfaction to announce that the net profits for the year 1853 have amounted to £7,699 3s. 8d. Out of these profits they have paid a dividend for the half-year ended on the 30th June, at the rate of 12 per cent. per annum; and they now declare a similar dividend for the half-year ended on the 31st December. These dividends amount to £6,231. The surplus, after deducting £200 as a provision for the income-tax, will be carried to the contingent fund, which will be thereby increased to £4,221 16s. 1d.; and from this accumulation the directors have the pleasure to declare a further payment, by way of bonus, at the rate of 5 per cent. on the paid-up capital, amounting to £2,596 5s., leaving a balance remaining at the credit of the contingent fund of £1,625 11s. 1d. According to the resolution passed by the proprietors at the last annual general meeting, and confirmed by the special general meeting held on the 2nd March last, it is the duty of this meeting to elect and appoint two proprietors, respectively qualified to be directors, to serve as auditors for the ensuing year. The director who retires by rotation is Lieut.-Col. J. K. Wilson, who is eligible, and offers himself for re-election.

General Balance-Sheet for the Year, to 31st December, 1853.

LIABILITIES.			
Dr.—To capital stock paid up	£51,925	0	0
Circulation deposits and other liabilities	280,416	12	10
Reserved surplus fund	20,000	0	0
Contingent fund	2,953	12	5
Net profits for the year	7,699	3	8
	<u>£362,994</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>11</u>
ASSETS.			
Cr.—By cash and bills in the bank, and other available securities	£359,878	18	11
Half-year's dividend paid	3,115	10	0
	<u>£362,994</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>11</u>
By balance of profits	£4,583	13	8

The dividend and bonus having been formally declared, the report and accounts were unanimously adopted. The proceedings concluded by votes of thanks to the directors and managers.

ROYAL BRITISH BANK.

THE half-yearly meeting of this bank was held at the West End Branch, Strand, on the 3rd of February, J. Macgregor, Esq., M.P., in the chair. The report, of which the following is an abstract, was read by H. J. Cameron, Esq., the general manager, and evidently gave satisfaction:—"In submitting to the proprietors the abstract balance-sheet of the bank's operations for the past year, the directors have the pleasure to report a dividend at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum, and an addition of an equal sum to the reserved fund. That fund now amounts to £10,766. The usual increase has been made to the

clerks' fund, which now amounts to £1,046; and £1,141 have, for the year, been set apart for liquidation of preliminary expenses and cost of premises. The most remarkable feature for the year is the sum paid and allowed for interest on balances, deposits, &c., which has amounted to the comparatively large sum of £19,485, or six and a half times as much as the dividend. The great activity of trade during the past half-year, while it tended much to multiply the number of banking transactions, was at the same time, however, calculated rather to diminish balances and deposits; but, notwithstanding this, and that the rates of interest allowed by the older banks and dealers in money for deposits at call and short dates were greatly increased, and became thereby naturally more inviting than this bank's ordinary terms for fixed deposits had previously been, yet its business, and profits too (though it advanced its rate of interest on the 1st October, from 3 to 4 per cent), have enjoyed a corresponding increase. A new branch has been opened at No. 1, Shaftesbury-terrace, Victoria-street, a situation which was strongly recommended to the directors, because of there being no bank previously in Pimlico, though one of the most important and improving districts of the metropolis; and premises have been taken for another branch at 69, Stones-end, Southwark, one of the most central positions in the Borough, and with no banking establishment near it. These branches, the directors believe, will be a great convenience to the populous neighbourhoods which surround them, and prove, in due time, profitable auxiliaries to the parent establishment. The resolution to double the capital of the bank has been acted on, the new shares all allotted, and applications received for more; and the necessary steps are in progress, in terms of the charter, for converting the scrip into stock, that it may participate in the next dividend.

Abstract Annual Balance-Sheet for the Fourth Year.

LIABILITIES.

<i>Dr.</i> —To commencing capital, as per charter, whereof				
one-half paid up	£100,000	0	0	
Amount due by the bank for deposits on account of new shares, deposits for fixed periods, and floating balances on drawing accounts, &c.	829,298	16	4	
Ditto due by ditto on the promissory notes or bills of the bank payable to order, and acceptances for customers current ..	41,144	3	0	
Clerks' fund	1,046	15	4	
Reserved fund, as at the 31st Dec., 1852, as per report				
for the third year .. £7,500	7	7		
Dividend thereon	117	16	1	
	£7,618	3	8	
Unappropriated balance at ditto	2,583	19	7	
Gross balance for the year ended the 31st Dec., 1853, after providing for interest (£19,485 9s. 11d.) paid and due on deposits, promissory notes, and balances	25,171	18	8	
		35,374	1	11
		£1,006,863	16	7

ASSETS.

Cr.—By uncalled-for stock	£50,000	0	0
Loans on convertible securities for short periods, advances on cash credit accounts, bills discounted, &c.	715,666	5	7
Balance of preliminary expenses to be liquidated by yearly instalments	14,137	7	7
Property of the bank in buildings and furniture, to be liquidated by yearly instalments	17,231	17	6
Investments in government stocks	56,781	6	11
Cash in hand and in Bank of England	153,046	19	0
	<u>£1,006,863</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>7</u>

Profit and Loss Account.

Dr.—To expenditure of the bank for the year ended the 31st Dec., 1853, comprehending rents, salaries, provision for bad debts, contribution to clerks' fund, and payment of income-tax, but not including remuneration to directors	£15,323	6	4
Amount voted to directors at annual meeting, 4th Feb., 1853	2,000	0	0
Amount set apart for liquidation of preliminary expenses and cost of premises for year 1853	1,141	13	3
Dividend (free of income-tax), at 6 per cent. per annum, for the half-year ended the 30th June, 1853, already paid	£1,500	0	0
Ditto for half-year ended the 31st Dec., 1853, at 6 per cent. per annum	1,500	0	0
	<u>3,000</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Reserved fund, as at 31st Dec., 1852, and dividend thereon, as per balance-sheet	7,618	3	8
Addition thereto, as at the 30th June, 1853	1,500	0	0
Dividends thereon (3½ per cents.)	143	3	3
Set apart to be added to reserve fund, as at 31st Dec., 1853.	1,500	0	0
	<u>10,766</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>11</u>
Reserved fund, as at last date	10,766	6	11
Unappropriated balance, carried to new account	3,142	15	5
	<u>13,909</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>4</u>
	<u>£35,374</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>11</u>
Cr.—By gross balance, as above, brought down	£35,374	1	11
By reserved fund and unappropriated balance, as above, brought down	£13,909	2	4

The report having been unanimously adopted, an uninteresting discussion,

relative to the future number of directors, was entered into, after which the vacancies were filled. The usual votes of thanks to the board, manager and officers were then passed, and the meeting separated.

THE LEICESTERSHIRE BANKING COMPANY.

THE twenty-fourth annual general meeting of the shareholders of this bank was held on the 8th of February, when the following report was proposed and adopted:—

The directors have pleasure in meeting the shareholders at this the twenty-fourth anniversary. The business of the bank, since the last annual meeting, has continued to increase, both at Leicester and at the branches, and your directors are enabled to lay before you a satisfactory statement of the transactions of the year. This result may in a great measure be attributed to the improved condition of the agricultural interest, and also to the general increase of the manufacturing trade of the town. The net profit on the operations of the bank for the past year (after providing for bad debts) amounts to £18,209 4s. In this sum is included £1,124 13s. 2d. for interest on the guarantee fund. Your directors paid a dividend for the half-year ending the 30th of June of £1 per share, and they now recommend to this meeting that the same dividend be paid for the half-year ending the 31st of December; and they are gratified in having it in their power also to recommend the division amongst the proprietors of a bonus of 10s. per share, which will amount to £2,500, and that the bonus, as well as the dividend, be free from income-tax; so that, after deducting from the net profit of the year £10,000 for dividends, £2,500 as a bonus, £1,124 13s. 2d. for interest on the guarantee fund, and £364 11s. 8d. for income-tax, there will remain £4,219 19s. 2d. to be added to the guarantee fund, which will stand thus:—

Balance, January 1st, 1853	£37,313	7	10
One year's interest at 3 per cent.	1,124	13	2
Residue of profit	4,219	19	2
	<u>£42,658</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>2</u>

And the profit and loss account thus:—

Dr.—To dividend paid to the shareholders for the half-

year ending the 30th of June, 1853	£5,000	0	0
Ditto ditto ending 31st of December	5,000	0	0
Bonus	2,500	0	0
Income-tax	364	11	8
Interest on guarantee fund	1,124	13	2
Balance	4,219	19	2
	<u>£18,209</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>0</u>

Cr.—By net profit for the year 1853 £18,209 | 4 | 0 |

Paid-up capital	£100,000	0	0
Guarantee fund	42,658	0	2
	<u>£142,658</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>2</u>

The dividend and bonus, as recommended in the report, were officially declared.

CARLISLE CITY AND DISTRICT BANK.

THE annual general meeting of this company was held on the 14th of February, 1854, (Mr. W. Stordy in the chair), when the following report was submitted to the shareholders, and unanimously adopted:—

Report of the directors of the Carlisle City and District Banking Company, to the seventeenth annual general meeting of the shareholders, held on the 14th day of February, 1854.

The balance-sheets now laid before the meeting show the net business profits of the year to amount to £7,763 4s. 8d., being at the rate of £13 7s. 8d. per cent. per annum on the paid-up capital. A dividend at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum having been paid for the half-year ending 30th of June last, the directors now recommend a similar dividend for the last half-year ending 31st of December, and also a bonus of 2½ per cent., leaving a sum of £455 16s. in the auxiliary fund, subject to the deduction of one half-year's income-tax. The guarantee fund will remain complete as before at £19,333 6s. 8d., being equal to one-third of the paid-up capital. Messrs. William Stordy and William Carrick, Carlisle directors, and Mr. John Wilson Fletcher, Cockermouth director, retire from office, in accordance with the eighth clause of the deed of settlement, but are eligible for re-election. The directors are happy to report that no bad debt has been sustained during the past year; and that, after a thorough investigation of the entire affairs of the bank, they have no reason to anticipate any loss on any of its present securities.

The report of the auditors (Messrs. Brown, Hope, and Hannah), confirming the balance-sheets, was also read and adopted.

A dividend at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum, free of income-tax, was declared for the last half-year, and also a bonus of 2½ per cent., both payable on the 23rd instant.

The retiring directors were unanimously re-elected; and thanks were voted to the directors, the manager, and other officers of the bank.

Mr. Joseph Hannah, Mr. Henry James Halton, and Mr. John Irving, were appointed auditors for the ensuing year.

Profit and Loss and Auxiliary Fund.

Dr.—To property and income-tax, &c., paid	£206	8	2
Dividend to 30th June, 1853	2,900	0	0
Ditto to 31st December, 1853	2,900	0	0
Bonus now declared	1,450	0	0
Rebate of interest on final settlement with North of England Bank	123	19	3
Auxiliary fund, for balance	454	16	0
	£8,035	3	5

Cr.—By balance of auxiliary fund on 8th Feb., 1853 ..	£256	3	0
Net profits, 30th June, 1853	3,408	16	8
Ditto, 31st December, 1853	4,354	8	0
Fees of transfer, &c., received	15	15	9
	£8,035	3	5

By undivided profits. as under:—

Guarantee fund	£19,333	6	8
Auxiliary fund	454	16	0
	£19,788	2	6

Communications

To the Editor of the Bankers' Magazine.

THE BANK ACT OF 1844.

SIR,—You, some time ago, called the attention of the readers of the *Bankers' Magazine* to the fact that the above act would shortly come under review, and that it would be very advisable to “discuss the question, especially as regards matters of detail, objections to the practical working of the several enactments being known to exist.”

I cordially agree with you in the propriety of doing so; and, if we would be successful, we must put our views of such alterations as we consider necessary in some practical shape, and endeavour, by every means in our power, to make the members of the legislature thoroughly acquainted with them.

I am very glad to observe that the subject is now causing some stir among country bankers, as appears by several letters which have lately appeared in *The Times* newspaper, and the letter of your Yorkshire correspondent in your last number. I assure you that the inconvenience to which the latter alludes has been largely felt by the bank with which I am connected. I am far removed from any branch of the Bank of England, and, therefore, unable to obtain the notes of that establishment without a delay of two days, and at considerable risk and expense. When, therefore, I find we are at the limit of our issue, I have to write to our branches to that effect, and order supplies of Bank of England notes to be sent them; until the arrival of which, we have no alternative but to pay gold, frequently to the great annoyance and inconvenience of our customers. “A man of business,” writing in *The Times*, cannot see that there is any inconvenience to a banker's customers receiving payment of their cheques in gold; but I think there is evidence, on the face of his letter, that his business is not that of a banker. I am often as near my limit as I dare be with such a penalty staring me in the face, and yet no one who knows the district of country in which I am situated, or the habits of its population, would think of charging me with over-trading.

My issues arise entirely from demands upon me over which I have no control, unless I shut the door of the bank. They arise from the ordinary and legitimate wants of a county notoriously free from every description of speculation or over-trading, but which is every year increasing in wealth and numbers, and requires in consequence an increase of the circulating medium.

I do not suppose it was the intention of Sir R. Peel that such progress should be stayed or allowed to be hampered with petty inconveniences and hindrances; but it is nevertheless, true that in practice his act has such an effect. There is no provision whatever in it for those half-yearly and quarterly terms, at which purchases of land are settled, interest on mortgages and servants' wages made payable, nor for the horse and cattle fairs, at all which times, it is well known, an addition of many thousands is required to the circulation; yet the law steps in and forbids us supplying it.

That the annoyance is general there can be little doubt, for I find, according to your December number, that out of the sixty-five joint-stock issuing banks, thirty-five were over their limit one week of the four, and fifteen over it two weeks; and, according to your January number, twenty-seven were over their limit one week, thirteen over it two weeks, and two over it three weeks. Such banks would, of course, have to withdraw, at whatever cost or inconvenience, during the remaining weeks of the month, much more than the amount of their over-issue, so as to come within their average.

There is another point worthy of attention, and it is this—that it is the very nature of the act to prevent the issuing bankers enjoying, as they ought,

even the bare limit of their circulation; for the penalty is so heavy, that they naturally stop when their average on the four weeks is likely to be any way near their limit. In this way, though so many banks are inconvenienced, yet the total circulation of the English county banks is not reached by nearly £1,000,000 (a million), solely by reason of the unbending nature of the law under which the averages are struck. Now, I think that this requires alteration—an alteration which would not affect the principle of the act; and what I contend for is, that we should be allowed the same privilege as is enjoyed by the Scotch and Irish banks, viz., to exceed our limit against gold coin held; or, if preferred, against Government securities, to be deposited with the Chancellor of the Exchequer.

Is it not strange, that while we in England are so bound down that we dare not approach our limit within a million, yet our Scotch neighbours not only enjoy their full limit, but are actually considerably more than a million beyond it?

My proposal, I have already said, will affect no principle in the bill; it will, on the contrary, rather have the effect of establishing it upon a firmer basis by removing one real grievance in its operation.

If you can find room for this letter in your forthcoming number, you will oblige an original subscriber to the *Bankers' Magazine*.

I enclose my name and address for your own satisfaction, and am, sir,

Your most obedient servant,

16th February, 1854.

G.

SALARIES OF BANK CLERKS.

SIR,—I observe that, in your last number, you reprint a leading article from the *Morning Post*, on the subject of the salaries paid by joint-stock banks in the metropolis.

In your number for January, 1854, an article of a like tenor appears; and in both now alluded to, honourable reference is made to the liberality with which private bankers treat their clerks.

Fully concurring in the economy (not to say justice) of a liberal scale of payment to persons discharging very responsible duties, I venture to think that the article in the *Morning Post* is calculated to do considerable disservice to those whose interest it is intended to promote.

I carefully abstain from particularising any firms, and deal only with a fact, patent and notorious to all the world, that private bankers only pay a portion of their clerks' salaries; a most valuable proportion of which is paid by the customers, under the degrading and offensive system of Christmas-boxes.

No clerk in a joint-stock bank is allowed to accept any gratuity from a customer; while every clerk in every private bank relies upon his Christmas-boxes as the mainstay of his income. The salaries are calculated with reference to the amount then obtained; and, practically, the Christmas-boxes thus go into the pockets of the partners.

The writer of the article also assumes that joint-stock banks can better afford to pay liberal salaries than private bankers, which I take leave to doubt. The profits of a private bank, divided among, at most, six partners, enables a large addition to be made to salaries, without any appreciable diminution of the thousands which each partner draws annually; while the proprietor, whose petty investment may be a large amount of his property, is keenly alive to his dividend, and cheers lustily when economy is talked about.

All I ask is, that the private bankers, while receiving praise, may not receive it unfairly at the expense of the joint-stock banks. If they think it creditable that their establishments are to look for a portion of their remuneration to the same source as the postman, the turncock, and "the regular dustman," that is

their affair ; but I object to their liberality being trumpeted to the disparagement of joint-stock banks, not one of which, as I confidently believe, but pays infinitely more liberally than private bankers, deducting the contributions of the benevolent. I am, sir, your obedient servant,

A DIRECTOR OF A JOINT-STOCK BANK.

SIR,—I saw, by the report of the meeting of the London and Westminster Bank, that the directors have given a bonus to their officers of 10 per cent. on their salaries. This example I had hoped would be followed by all other banks ; for if the senior bank clerks feel the effect of the present high prices, what must the juniors suffer, many of whom are married, and have families to support on their salaries, little better than the wages of a mechanic? I do trust that, as the last year has been one of great profit to bankers, they will be kind enough to take the present situation of their officers into consideration, and give them timely assistance. As a principle, I object to gratuities ; for after once receiving them, clerks are apt to depend upon them too much ; but this being a peculiar time, so should the assistance be peculiar, and given with such understanding. I fear we have not yet seen the highest prices to which necessaries of all kinds will rise ; therefore I hope our employers will at once render us that assistance we so much need, and which may be the means of saving many a clerk from debt. Trusting you will have the kindness to insert this letter without any delay in your valuable magazine ; for though I know I have not the power to advocate our case as strongly as it should be, yet even this may be the means of bringing it before our employers, who, I feel sure, would readily grant us the required aid did they but know how much we are in need of it.

I beg to remain, sir, your most obedient servant,

January 27, 1854.

JUNIOR CLERK.

SIR,—I have read with interest the communications that have appeared in your valuable magazine of late, on bankers' clerks' salaries, and I am sure the class in question must all feel deeply indebted to you for opening your pages to a subject that, I cannot help saying, has engaged the attention of bank directors far too little, and I hope that your efforts on their behalf will yet be attended and rewarded with success. Much cause, however, as some of our English friends have to complain of the smallness of their salaries, they are, beyond all controversy, in a much better position in this respect than their Scottish neighbours. In page 97 of your last number, you very truly say "that it is to be feared that directors have too often neglected the claims of their servants, for the sake of earning popularity by the declaration of large dividends, many clerks remaining stationary for years, and large numbers, after fourteen or fifteen years' service, not receiving more than £150 per annum." But what will you think, Sir, of a clerk being connected with a branch Scotch bank for the same period, and that not one of the young, but of the old, well-paying establishments, and not receiving more than £80, £90, or at most £100 per annum? And this too after faithful service, and with duties to discharge involving no trifling amount of responsibility! The natural tendency of such a discreditable state of matters must be, to fill the Scotch banks with young men of inferior character and education, while those of superior acquirements will betake themselves to some pursuit more remunerative. Such cases as I have referred to are by no means rare in Scotland ; and I hope your remarks from time to time will awaken directors to attend better in future to the claims of their faithful, efficient, but underpaid servants, seeing so very much of the success of a branch depends on their

politeness, punctuality and suavity. It is but just, too, that when the business prospers, and that, partly at least, because of their attention and efficiency, that they should participate somewhat in the profits. And this, in the long run, would turn out to the benefit of the proprietors, as it would naturally encourage those employed to more vigorous and sustained efforts for the good of the establishment with which they are connected.

Trusting you will give this a place in your pages,

I remain, sir, your very obedient servant,

7th February, 1854.

A TELLER.

BANK HOLIDAYS AND OTHER BANKING MATTERS.

SIR,—Permit me, through the pages of your excellent magazine, to express my sincere condolence for the position of the writer of the letter upon “Bank Holidays,” which appeared in your February number.

Though it may not directly mend his situation (but hoping that it may have that effect at no distant date), it may, perhaps, be a matter of consolation for him to know that in the leading banks of the kingdom every bank clerk, from managing director, or manager-general, down to the junior note copier, enjoys during each year, if he desires it, a period of relaxation which, in most instances, extends to a fortnight. And this indulgence is in many banks granted to the servants or bank porters, a most useful and deserving class of bank officials. In their case, however, and from the peculiar nature of their duties, the “leave of absence” is generally curtailed to a week.

An entire restriction from periodical relaxation, I am afraid, must only occur in those banks where “business is a holiday;” or, more likely, if there be any such still in existence, in those hybrid institutions, half banking, half trading, which a polite satirist has characterised as the “social pirates” of *terra firma*. I trust, however, that your correspondent belongs to neither in the above category, but to some quiet, old, jog-trot concern which only stands in need of a friendly push to bring it “up to the times.”

With regard to banking matters generally, it is gratifying to find that sounder views are now being entertained both by contributories and the public at large, and that the general practice of the various banks and their internal official regulations are beginning to show evidence of a wiser and more equitable policy than has been hitherto attained. Under such circumstances the long overlooked claims and interests of the subordinate members of the service will, it is to be hoped, soon be fully recognised, and the position of the general banking staff be secured on a safer and better basis than heretofore. To promote effectually the latter end, some desirable objects, however, are still wanting, not the least of which would appear to be the organisation, as suggested on a former occasion, of some such general fund as that enjoyed by the members of the Indian services. Annuity and retiring fund schemes of narrower influence appear to be treated with disfavour by the majority of the banking profession.

Believe me, &c.,

10th February, 1854.

EVERSOR.

RELATIVE POSITION OF COUNTRY JOINT-STOCK AND PRIVATE BANKS.

SIR,—Having read “X. Y. Z.’s” communication under the above title in your magazine of last month, I should feel obliged by an opportunity of replying to some of his observations, which appear to give an incorrect view of the subject.

He instances the case of a farmer applying for discount on bills forming

part payment of a profitable transaction between himself and a neighbour, and states that, on tendering this at the private bank, he will receive his answer in a few hours, but that the branch manager of the joint-stock bank would require a few days; this, if he be acquainted with the business of a joint-stock bank, he must know is incorrect; and that if the parties be worth the money, or otherwise, the manager will do it at once, or at once refuse it, without any reference to the head office, and in as short a time as the private banker; or, suppose it be a temporary overdraft, the case will be the same. And, if it be a loan of some extent (a matter very different from discount), the answer of the head office, founded on the manager's opinion, will seldom take more than one day (for the posts, as he must know, do not occupy the same time as formerly), and perhaps that would be as soon as the partners (for there are generally more than one) of the private bank could come together; and, should security be required, it is generally the unsubstantial and not the substantial party who declines to give it.

However, it may be that it is a transaction of a "not strictly banking character," as spoken of by a former correspondent; and of these speculations at the present time there are plenty "sure to yield 50 per cent.," which, "in straightforward, blunt-speaking style," might be rather called gambling; and these the two heads in the joint-stock bank will most likely very wisely decline, with no more chance of losing a substantial account than, under the same circumstances, the private banker would have.

Again, he asserts that "such a delay in many cases would rain down half-a-dozen unpaid acceptances." Surely, no substantial business firm would put off to so close a period the collection of the amount necessary to meet six or seven large acceptances (for large they must be to make a manager refuse a temporary overdraft); or, if they did conduct their business in that way, their credit certainly ought not to stand very high.

Your correspondent seems, moreover, to look with indifference on large credit balances. I admit that they are not of so much direct importance to the joint-stock bank, on account of its paid-up capital; but, if held by them, their rival the private banker, who has not that advantage, is prevented from using them, and to him they would be of great service when discounts and loans were required to more than the extent of his comparatively small capital.

Further, there is one fact in favour of joint-stock banks, which holds good in the generality of cases, viz., that while the private banker, being hereditary, occupies the office of manager (i.e., partner), whether he be fitted for it or no, solely from the fact of his possessing certain property, the manager of the joint-stock bank is, on the contrary, chosen from the rest of his fellow-officers for his superior ability and capacity, the additional fact remaining that he possesses much larger capital at his command with which to trade—an advantage which cannot fail to tell in favour of the joint-stock system.

Chatham. J. A. S.

RECEIPT TO BILL OF EXCHANGE.

SIR,—On payment of a bill of exchange, is it required by law or by universal custom that the receiver should *receipt* the bill? Or, is the indorsement of the holder and possession of the bill a legal discharge?

I am aware that the custom in London is to receipt all bills of exchange; but is this necessary in law? Your answer to the above would much oblige, sir,

Your obedient servant,

QUERY.

[We fear there is no obligation imposed by law or custom on the party to whom money is paid, to give a receipt, except that which is imposed by the stamp laws. This is plainly to enable the public revenue to get the stamp

duty, and will not apply to a receipt indorsed on a bill of exchange, as that requires no stamp.

It is certainly not necessary in law, in any case, to produce a receipt as proof that money has been paid. The payment may be proved by any evidence.]

LOST DEPOSIT RECEIPT.

SIR,—A labouring man has placed a sum of money in our bank, taking a deposit receipt, which he declares he has lost. He now requires the money to be paid to him, but he is quite unable to give us indemnity of any value on our doing so.

Supposing us to comply with his request, could we be called upon to pay the money over again if it should hereafter prove that the man has dishonestly endorsed the receipt over to another person as a security? Or, would the invariable custom of bankers to pay money so placed with them only on the production of the deposit receipt, compel us to pay it to any person who might be in possession of, and might be able to prove that he had given value for, the same.

Some reply to this in your columns will much oblige

Your constant reader,

Yarmouth, Feb. 18.

R. H. I. P.

[We think the bank should require the usual statutable declaration of the truth of the loss; which, if false, will enable the bank to prosecute the guilty party for perjury. In the absence of any notice that the receipt has been incumbered, the bank may then pay with safety. The custom to produce the receipt cannot operate when it has been lost. After all, the receipt is nothing more than a piece of evidence.]

Notes of the Month.

AN OLD BANKER'S ESTATE.—At the Court of Bankruptcy, on the 31st of January, a further dividend, which, it is estimated, will reach from 4d. to 5d. in the pound, was ordered under the estate of Dawes, Noble, Croft, and Barwick, who failed as bankers in Pall-mall, in 1810.

BANK OF NEW SOUTH WALES.—The half-yearly meeting of the proprietors of the Bank of New South Wales was held at Sydney, on the 20th of October last. The accounts submitted to the meeting were most satisfactory, and extended over the six months ended on the 30th September, 1853. The amount of the credit of profit and loss, after payment of all expenses, and providing for rebate of discount on current bills, was £56,058 10s. 4d.; the gross profits for the half-year had been £74,780 15s. 3d. The directors' report was adopted, and a dividend, amounting to 20 per cent per annum, was declared, and the reserve fund was increased to £50,000. The directors remarked that—"The profits have been considerably diminished by the exorbitant rates of insurance charged by the London underwriters on our gold shipments. The amount of premium paid during the last half-year amounting to upwards of £50,000, it will deserve the early consideration of the proprietors, should the present exorbitant rates continue, whether it would not be expedient that the bank should provide for its own insurance, by the formation of a fund for that purpose." During the half-year, branches had been established at Maitland

and Newcastle, in the Hunter River district; and at Ipswich, in the district of Moreton Bay; and agencies for the purchase of gold and receipt of deposits had been opened at the Ovens and Ballarat gold-fields. Through the introduction of the Union Bank of London, Messrs. Duncan, Sherman and Co., the bankers, at New York, had become their agents there.

MARYLEBONE BANKING COMPANY.—Sir G. Rose, the master charged with the winding-up of the affairs of this company, has ordered a call of £34 per share, payable on the 15th of March. It appears that the winding-up proceedings have been going on for more than five years. The claims amount to £34,602, and the costs to £2,500. The official manager states that the number of shares is 3,736, but that he has reason to believe that there are a great many shareholders unable to pay a call. The shares are £25 each, and there was a call of £11 made by the directors.

DIVIDEND UNDER THE ESTATE OF GEMMELL BROTHERS.—A dividend is in course of payment, in Glasgow, from the partnership assets of Gemmell, Brothers, and Co., of 8s. in the pound, making with previous dividends 19s. 4d.; and there is understood to be a near prospect of payment of the remaining 8d., with perhaps interest. The individual estate of Mr. William Gemmell, the only partner of the house at the date of its stoppage, has, in addition, already paid 5s. per pound, and there is a likelihood of a further dividend from it of 1s. By the arrangements he made before and at the time of the failure, the liabilities of his firm for his houses at Valparaiso and Lima were long since discharged in full. This was the first of the large foreign houses that yielded to the pressure of September, 1847—the suspension of the great London firms with whom Gemmell, Brothers, and Co. were, either directly or indirectly, connected having followed almost immediately, and created the general panic of October.

BANK MOVEMENTS.

THE London Gazette of Friday, the 10th of February, contains the dissolution of partnership in the firm of Messrs. Masterman, Peters, and Co., of Nicholas-lane, Lombard-street, bankers, as far as regards J. Masterman, jun.

NORTH AND SOUTH WALES BANK.—The directors of this bank have relieved their officers and clerks from payment of the income-tax.

THE London Chartered Bank of Australia have just made a fourth call of £3 per share, making £18 out of £20 paid up.

THE governor of the Bank of England has notified to the public that the proposed alteration of the hour of opening from 9 to 10 o'clock, will not take place, the representations from the body of private bankers, of the inconvenience attending the change, rendering it inexpedient to bring it into partial operation. It, however, appears that the suggestion first came from the committee of bankers themselves, who brought it before the attention of the directors of the Bank of England. There will, therefore, now be no alteration of hours in any of the London banking establishments.

Monetary Intelligence.

REVIEW OF THE MONEY MARKET FOR THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY, 1854.

THE satisfactory progress of financial affairs continues to be interrupted by the state of our relations in the East. The suspension of diplomatic intercourse with Russia has at last brought the war question to a crisis, and the failure of all negotiation has been followed by those active arrangements which indicate the determination of the Government, assisted by France, to maintain the integrity of Turkey. Although the departure of Baron Brunow and M. Kisseleff, the Russian ministers in London and Paris, it was thought, would have been attended by a considerable fall in public securities, the very reverse proved to be the case; and Consols, which had previously been sluggish, at once showed an advancing tendency. The state of the markets has been much influenced by the position of the several accounts, the extensive operations for the fall rendering stocks and shares of almost every description scarce. Under these circumstances, and in the face of the most discouraging prospects abroad, we possess an active business, with, in the majority of cases, steadily improving prices.

Money is gradually becoming easier. It is believed in some quarters that the Bank would reduce the rate of discount, were it not for the contingencies connected with a general outbreak of hostilities in Europe. There is also the apprehension that attempts may be made to introduce foreign loans. One for France, to the extent of £8,000,000 sterling, is already said to be in course of negotiation, at a price ranging between 64f. and 68f. in a three per cent. stock. Messrs. Rothchild and the Bank of *Credit Mobilier* are understood to be the competitors in the transaction, but nothing up to the 25th instant (Feb.) had been arranged. If the operation be concluded, it is expected that it will draw from £2,000,000 to £3,000,000 from this country. The demand for accommodation in Lombard-street is not excessive, and the average rate for first-class paper is $4\frac{1}{2}$ to $4\frac{3}{4}$ per cent. The bill brokers allow 4 per cent. for deposits, but they are not anxious to increase their available resources on these terms.

The late settlements at the Stock Exchange have passed over more favourably than was anticipated. In those which were adjusted in the early part of the month, some difficulty was apprehended, owing to the unfavourable position in which a leading outside speculator was placed. With the assistance of friends, he was enabled to raise sufficient funds to liquidate his immediate liabilities; and the credit of the brokers with whom he dealt has thus been saved. Consols have fluctuated almost daily throughout the month, but not so violently as at the close of the year. The feature in English securities has been the progressive improvement in the value of Exchequer bills and India bonds, bankers and capitalists making them the medium for temporary investment. The former have reached 18s. to 22s. pm.

Foreign stocks have generally suffered from sales. Russian has been greatly depressed, doubts having been promulgated respecting the payment of the dividend due in March, on the 5 per cents. Both those and the $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cents. have been equally affected, and there is no apparent recovery in prices. A proposed conversion of Dutch 4 per cents. into 3 per cents. has caused a decline in those securities, but it is questioned whether the minister will be enabled to carry out his design. Danish, Swedish, Sardinian and other descriptions, have experienced a depreciation, the apprehended consequences of war inducing holders to realise, and seek preferential investments.

Railway shares have probably never exhibited a more decided change. From general heaviness they have suddenly recovered; and the dividends of the principal undertaking having presented more encouraging results, there

has been a rapid advance all round the market. Great Northern, Caledonian, Midland, Lancashire and Yorkshire, Great Western, London and North Western, York and North Midland, each show an important improvement; and if their traffic shall be well supported, the principal rise may be maintained. The late large sales for the fall have given buyers confidence, and the public also being purchasers, there is a good basis to business.

Not a great deal of activity has prevailed in the shares of the joint-stock banks. Quotations, however, have been fairly sustained, very few speculative operations having taken place.

A meeting of Venezuelan bondholders was held on the 20th of February, when resolutions were carried requesting the interference of the foreign secretary, the authorities at Caracas manifesting the greatest contempt for all representations made to them on the subject of these claims. It was also agreed to distribute the sum of £29,736 in the Bank of England on the coupon of October, 1851, the money having been remitted for that special purpose. Messrs. F. Huth and Co., it appears, have a further amount of £8,000 in hand, applicable to dividend purposes.

In the produce markets the transactions have not been important. The sales of wool are in progress; those of indigo have just concluded at rates 2d. to 6d. per lb. below the currency established in October last. Saltpetre has brought higher prices, the demand having increased. The Government have concluded large contracts for a supply of rum to the navy.

The annexed table presents the fluctuations in the English and Foreign Stocks and Railway Shares during the month just concluded:—

ENGLISH FUNDS.

	Price on Jan. 30.	Highest.	Lowest.	Price on Feb. 25.
Consols	90½ to 7	92½	90½	91½ to 7
Exchequer Bills' average ..	9s. to 12s. pm.	22s. pm.	9s. pm.	18s. to 21s. p.

FOREIGN STOCKS.

Brazilian	97	99½	97	99
Buenos Ayres	—	59	57	58
Chilian	—	102½	100	100
Dutch	60½	61½	58½	59½
Mexican	23½	26	23½	24½
Peruvian, 4½ per cent. ..	66½	67½	66	66
Portuguese, 4 per cent. ..	38	38	37½	38
Russian	105½	107½	99	100
Spanish	39½	41	39½	40

RAILWAY SHARES.

Brighton	96 ex d.	99 ex d.	94½ ex d.	97½
Caledonian	51½	56	50½	55½
Eastern Counties	12½	13½	12½	13½
Great Northern	83	95	82½	95
Great Western	80½	84	80½	83½
London and North Western	101	105	100½	105½
Midland	60½	64½	60	64½
Lancashire and Yorkshire ..	62	67½	61½	68
North Staffordshire	11½ ex d.	11½ ex d.	11½ ex d.	11½
South Eastern	59½	63½	58½	63½
South Western	77½	82½	77½	82½
York, Newcastle and Berwick	62½	70½	62	71
York and North Midland ..	45	50½	44½	50½
Northern of France	29½	30½	28½	29½
East Indian	—	23½	22½	22½

THE STATE OF TRADE.

BUSINESS in the manufacturing districts has been checked by the apprehensions connected with war, but there is no depression such as might have reasonably been expected from the usual estimates of so great a calamity. The labour question remains unsettled, and the Preston masters have re-opened their mills, with the view of affording the operatives the opportunity of returning to work at the old prices; but the majority refuse, unless the advance is conceded.

THE CORN TRADE.

THE *Gazette* returns for England and Wales have been—

Week ended 1854.	Wheat. Qrs. sold.	Weekly Average. s. d.	Six Weeks' Average. s. d.	Duty. s. d.	Corresponding Six Weeks Last Year. s. d.
Jan. 28	71,067 ..	83 3 ..	77 3 ..	1 0 ..	46 0
Feb. 4	77,098 ..	82 8 ..	79 4 ..	1 0 ..	46 0
„ 11	64,131 ..	82 4 ..	80 11 ..	1 0 ..	45 9
„ 18	59,170 ..	80 1 ..	81 7 ..	1 0 ..	45 9

The importations since the harvest of 1853 have been:—

	Wheat. Qrs.	Other Grain. Qrs.	Total. Qrs.
Twenty-six weeks ended 18th Jan., 1854	3,090,778	1,991,924	5,082,702
Four weeks ended 15th Feb., 1854	298,530	116,008	414,538
	3,389,308	2,107,932	5,497,240
And the <i>weekly averages</i> have been—			
Twenty-six weeks ended 18th Jan., 1854	119,000	76,000	195,000
Four weeks ended 15th Feb., 1854	74,000	29,000	103,000
Less ..	45,000	47,000	92,000

In the grain trade there has been little activity; and although the supplies have proved limited, a decline in prices equal to nearly 4s. per quarter has occurred. The tendency since the refusal of the Czar to negotiate on any terms has been towards an advance, but no real improvement can be noticed. The supplies of foreign have generally been limited, and even American descriptions come forward slowly. In the principal localities the weather for agricultural operations has been favourable.

EAST INDIA REMITTANCES.

AMOUNT OF BILLS DRAWN FOR.

From Jan. 24th to Feb. 7th inclusive	{ Bengal.....	£88,807 0 8
	{ Madras	13,772 2 10
	{ Bombay	Nil.
From Feb. 8th to Feb. 23rd inclusive	{ Bengal.....	57,549 8 11
	{ Madras	21,101 9 6
	{ Bombay	Nil.
		£181,230 1 11

Review.

A Practical Treatise on the Law of Bankers' Cheques, Letters of Credit and Drafts, containing the Statutes and Cases relative thereto, with Observations. A new Edition, comprising the Statute 16 and 17 Vict., cap. 59, and Cases to the end of the Year 1853. By G. J. SHAW. Groombridge and Sons, Paternoster Row.

THE reputation of this volume is so well established, that the present edition will be hailed with satisfaction by all interested in banking and commerce, including as it does the recent alteration in the Stamp Acts, and the latest legal decisions connected with the drawing of cheques, letters of credit and drafts. This work, arranged with great care by Mr. Shaw, is a complete guide, and is written in such a clear and intelligible manner, that the most inexperienced can appreciate the points brought under consideration. The author, who has given the closest attention to the whole of the subject, and whose papers on Banking and Commercial Law always occupy a prominent position in the pages of our magazine, has proved how well qualified he is to fulfil the task he has assigned himself.

MONTHLY CHRONOLOGY.

Jan. 31st.—Re-opening of Parliament, with Queen's speech.

Feb. 4th.—The failure of Count Orloff's mission to Austria and Prussia announced.

Feb. 8th.—Baron Brunow and M. Kisseleff leave London and Paris, and diplomatic relations between England, France and Russia, officially announced to have been suspended.

Feb. 14th.—Autograph letter addressed by Louis Napoleon to the Czar.

Feb. 17th and 20th.—General debate in Parliament on the Eastern question.

Feb. 20th.—Answer received from St. Petersburg that all negotiation is refused.

Feb. 17th.—Exchequer Bills falling due in March, advertised to be paid off, or renewed at the rate of 2d. per diem.

Feb. 21st.—Troops embarked at Southampton for Malta—the first portion of the contingent to be sent out by England, to co-operate with France in the East.

Feb. 22nd.—Intelligence received of the outbreak of revolution in Albania, and the prospect of further disaffection in Greece generally manifested.

NOTICES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Several interesting papers remain over in consequence of the general pressure of matter.

All letters, except they involve important questions, should be sent at the latest by the 20th of the month.

Two or three bank reports have been postponed, but they shall appear in our April number.

A. F. N.—The length of the letter prevented its immediate insertion, but it shall be promptly attended to.

F. W. and Co.—No fear need be entertained of the solvency of the parties; but some of their transactions have been of a questionable character.

TRADE OF THE UNITED KINGDOM.—The Board of Trade returns were not issued until the 23rd of February.—We have therefore been compelled to omit them this month. The totals for the years 1852 and 1853 present a marked comparison, the amount of exports for the respective periods being £71,876,066, and £87,857,866. In every branch of business there has been great activity.

THE ENGLISH FUNDS.—Daily Prices from 28th January, 1854, to 24th February, 1854, inclusive.

	28	30	31	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
Bank Stock (div. 8 per Ct.).	217	216	215	215	215	217	216	216	216	216	216	216	216	216	216	216	216	216	216	216	216	216	216	216	216	216	216
3 per Ct. Red. Anna.	911	901	911	911	911	911	911	911	911	911	911	911	911	911	911	911	911	911	911	911	911	911	911	911	911	911	911
3 per Ct. Consols Anna.	901	901	901	901	901	901	901	901	901	901	901	901	901	901	901	901	901	901	901	901	901	901	901	901	901	901	901
3 per cent. Anna. 1750	911	911	911	911	911	911	911	911	911	911	911	911	911	911	911	911	911	911	911	911	911	911	911	911	911	911	911
3 per cent. Anna.	911	911	911	911	911	911	911	911	911	911	911	911	911	911	911	911	911	911	911	911	911	911	911	911	911	911	911
New 24 per cent.	751	751	751	751	751	751	751	751	751	751	751	751	751	751	751	751	751	751	751	751	751	751	751	751	751	751	751
New 5 per cent. Anna.	81	81	81	81	81	81	81	81	81	81	81	81	81	81	81	81	81	81	81	81	81	81	81	81	81	81	81
Long Anna. Jan. 5, 1860	81	81	81	81	81	81	81	81	81	81	81	81	81	81	81	81	81	81	81	81	81	81	81	81	81	81	81
Ditto 30 years, Oct. 10, 1859	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41
Ditto 30 years, Jan. 5, 1860	230	232	232	232	232	232	232	232	232	232	232	232	232	232	232	232	232	232	232	232	232	232	232	232	232	232	232
India Stock (div. 104 percent.)	44p	44p	44p	44p	44p	44p	44p	44p	44p	44p	44p	44p	44p	44p	44p	44p	44p	44p	44p	44p	44p	44p	44p	44p	44p	44p	44p
Ditto Bonds £100 (div. 3 1/2 p. c.)	par	par	par	par	par	par	par	par	par	par	par	par	par	par	par	par	par	par	par	par	par	par	par	par	par	par	par
Ditto, under £500	115 1/2	115 1/2	115 1/2	115 1/2	115 1/2	115 1/2	115 1/2	115 1/2	115 1/2	115 1/2	115 1/2	115 1/2	115 1/2	115 1/2	115 1/2	115 1/2	115 1/2	115 1/2	115 1/2	115 1/2	115 1/2	115 1/2	115 1/2	115 1/2	115 1/2	115 1/2	115 1/2
South Sea Stock (div. 3 1/2 p. c.)	100 1/2	100 1/2	100 1/2	100 1/2	100 1/2	100 1/2	100 1/2	100 1/2	100 1/2	100 1/2	100 1/2	100 1/2	100 1/2	100 1/2	100 1/2	100 1/2	100 1/2	100 1/2	100 1/2	100 1/2	100 1/2	100 1/2	100 1/2	100 1/2	100 1/2	100 1/2	100 1/2
Do. Old Anna. (div. 3 p. c.)	100 1/2	100 1/2	100 1/2	100 1/2	100 1/2	100 1/2	100 1/2	100 1/2	100 1/2	100 1/2	100 1/2	100 1/2	100 1/2	100 1/2	100 1/2	100 1/2	100 1/2	100 1/2	100 1/2	100 1/2	100 1/2	100 1/2	100 1/2	100 1/2	100 1/2	100 1/2	100 1/2
Do. new Anna. (div. 3 p. c.)	100 1/2	100 1/2	100 1/2	100 1/2	100 1/2	100 1/2	100 1/2	100 1/2	100 1/2	100 1/2	100 1/2	100 1/2	100 1/2	100 1/2	100 1/2	100 1/2	100 1/2	100 1/2	100 1/2	100 1/2	100 1/2	100 1/2	100 1/2	100 1/2	100 1/2	100 1/2	100 1/2
3 per cent. Anna. 1751	100 1/2	100 1/2	100 1/2	100 1/2	100 1/2	100 1/2	100 1/2	100 1/2	100 1/2	100 1/2	100 1/2	100 1/2	100 1/2	100 1/2	100 1/2	100 1/2	100 1/2	100 1/2	100 1/2	100 1/2	100 1/2	100 1/2	100 1/2	100 1/2	100 1/2	100 1/2	100 1/2
Bank Stock for ac. 15th Feb.	100 1/2	100 1/2	100 1/2	100 1/2	100 1/2	100 1/2	100 1/2	100 1/2	100 1/2	100 1/2	100 1/2	100 1/2	100 1/2	100 1/2	100 1/2	100 1/2	100 1/2	100 1/2	100 1/2	100 1/2	100 1/2	100 1/2	100 1/2	100 1/2	100 1/2	100 1/2	100 1/2
3p. Cent. Cons. for ac. 15th Feb.	100 1/2	100 1/2	100 1/2	100 1/2	100 1/2	100 1/2	100 1/2	100 1/2	100 1/2	100 1/2	100 1/2	100 1/2	100 1/2	100 1/2	100 1/2	100 1/2	100 1/2	100 1/2	100 1/2	100 1/2	100 1/2	100 1/2	100 1/2	100 1/2	100 1/2	100 1/2	100 1/2
Do. for ac. 16th March	100 1/2	100 1/2	100 1/2	100 1/2	100 1/2	100 1/2	100 1/2	100 1/2	100 1/2	100 1/2	100 1/2	100 1/2	100 1/2	100 1/2	100 1/2	100 1/2	100 1/2	100 1/2	100 1/2	100 1/2	100 1/2	100 1/2	100 1/2	100 1/2	100 1/2	100 1/2	100 1/2
India Stock for ac. 15th Feb.	100 1/2	100 1/2	100 1/2	100 1/2	100 1/2	100 1/2	100 1/2	100 1/2	100 1/2	100 1/2	100 1/2	100 1/2	100 1/2	100 1/2	100 1/2	100 1/2	100 1/2	100 1/2	100 1/2	100 1/2	100 1/2	100 1/2	100 1/2	100 1/2	100 1/2	100 1/2	100 1/2
Ex. Bills £1000, 2d. per diem	12p	12p	12p	12p	12p	12p	12p	12p	12p	12p	12p	12p	12p	12p	12p	12p	12p	12p	12p	12p	12p	12p	12p	12p	12p	12p	12p
Ditto. £1000 do.	12p	12p	12p	12p	12p	12p	12p	12p	12p	12p	12p	12p	12p	12p	12p	12p	12p	12p	12p	12p	12p	12p	12p	12p	12p	12p	12p
Ditto. Small do.	12p	12p	12p	12p	12p	12p	12p	12p	12p	12p	12p	12p	12p	12p	12p	12p	12p	12p	12p	12p	12p	12p	12p	12p	12p	12p	12p

JOINT-STOCK BANKS.

	London	Latest Prices.
Australasia	£40 ab.	9 p.
British North American	50	0
Commercial of London	100	20
Colonial	100	25
London and Westminster	100	20
London Joint Stock	50	10
Oriental Bank	25	0
Provincial of Ireland	100	25
Ditto, New	10	10
National of Ireland	100	25
National Provincial of England	100	25
Ditto, New	20	10
South Australian	25	35
Union of Australia	25	35
Union of London	50	10
London and County	50	20
London Chartered of Australia	20	15
English, Scottish, and Austro- lian Chartered	20	10
Bank of India, China, and Australia	20	0
New South Wales	20	0

FOREIGN STOCKS (24th February.)

Brazilian Bonds, 5 per Cent.	99
Chilian Bonds, 6 per Cent.	99
Danish 5 per Cent.	97 1/2
Mexican 3 per Cent.	242
Peruvian 4 per Cent.	64
Portuguese Bonds, 4 per Cent.	37
Russian Bonds, 1852, 5 per Cent. in £ Ster.	100
Ditto, 4 1/2 per cent.	80
Spanish Bonds 3 per Cent.	94
Ditto, Passive	3
Ditto, 3 per Cent. Deferred	18 1/2
(Dividends on the above payable in London.)	
Austrian 5 per Cent.	99
Belgian Bonds, 4 1/2 per Cent.	87
Dutch 3 1/2 per Cent.	50
Ditto 4 per Cent. Loan	91
French 4 1/2 per Cent., at Paris, Feb. 23 1854	66 1/2
Ditto 3 per Cent., ditto	66 1/2

RAILWAY SHARES.

	COMPANY.	Price.
Caledonian	100	51 1/2
Eastern Counties	100	13
Great Northern	100	83
Great Western	100	94
London and Blackwall	100	81
London and Brighton	100	73
North-West	100	98
South-West	100	101
Midland	100	77
North British	100	60 1/2
South-Eastern	100	31 1/2
York, Newcastle, & Berwick	100	33 1/2
York & North Midland	100	62 1/2
	100	45 1/2

The closing prices of the day are quoted.

Bank of England Weekly Returns.

Account, pursuant to the Act 7th and 8th of Victoria, cap. 32, for the Weeks ending as follows.

ISSUE DEPARTMENT.

	1854. Jan. 28th.	1854. Feb. 4th.	1854. Feb. 11th.	1854. Feb. 18th.
Notes issued.....	£ 29,517,025	£ 29,523,620	£ 29,466,910	£ 29,513,220
Government debt.....	11,015,100	11,015,100	11,015,100	11,015,100
Other securities.....	2,984,900	2,984,900	2,984,900	2,984,900
Gold coin and bullion.....	15,517,025	15,523,620	15,466,910	15,513,220
Silver bullion.....	—	—	—	—
	29,517,025	29,523,620	29,466,910	29,513,220

BANKING DEPARTMENT.

	1854. Jan. 28th.	1854. Feb. 4th.	1854. Feb. 11th.	1854. Feb. 18th.
Proprietors' capital.....	£ 14,553,000	£ 14,553,000	£ 14,553,000	£ 14,553,000
Reserve.....	3,339,394	3,349,523	3,440,601	3,445,498
Public deposits (including Ex- chequer, Savings' Banks, Com- missioners of National Debt, and Dividend Accounts).....	2,515,384	2,121,718	1,981,907	2,440,107
Other deposits.....	13,486,234	12,608,926	12,357,045	12,177,200
Seven day and other bills.....	1,262,155	1,144,582	1,119,351	1,086,779
	33,096,167	33,777,749	33,451,904	33,702,593
Government securities (including Dead Weight Annuity).....	13,232,716	12,537,716	11,941,666	11,757,704
Other securities.....	13,988,622	13,570,465	13,415,280	13,346,376
Notes.....	7,168,640	6,966,503	7,358,340	7,858,420
Gold and silver coin.....	706,189	703,063	736,619	740,093
	33,096,167	33,777,749	33,451,904	33,702,593

The Exchanges.

	Jan. 27th.	Feb. 3rd.	Feb. 10th.	Feb. 17th.
Amsterdam, short ..	11 13½	11 14½	11 14	11 14½
Ditto 3 months.....	11 15½	11 16	11 16	11 16
Rotterdam, ditto ..	11 15½	11 16½	11 16½	11 16
Antwerp, ditto ..	25 20	25 20	25 20	25 20
Brussels, ditto.....	25 20	25 20	25 20	25 20
Hamburg, ditto.....	13 4½	13 4½	13 4½	13 5½
Paris, short.....	25 20	25 2½	25 0	25 0
Paris, 3 months.....	25 32½	25 32½	25 32½	25 32½
Marseilles, ditto.....	25 35	25 35	25 32½	25 32½
Frankfort, ditto.....	118½	118	118½	118½
Vienna, ditto.....	12 45	12 45	13 20	12 58
Trieste, ditto.....	12 50	12 50	13 25	12 13
Petersburgh, ditto.....	37½	37½	36½	—
Madrid, ditto.....	50½	50½	50½	50½
Cádiz, ditto.....	50½	50½	50½	50½
Leghorn, ditto.....	30 30	30 35	30 50	30 55
Genoa, ditto.....	23 55	23 55	25 27½	25 67½
Naples, ditto.....	42½	42½	42½	43
Palermo, ditto.....	126½	127	126½	126½
Messina, ditto.....	126½	127	127	127
Lisbon, 60 days' date.....	53½	53½	53½	53½
Oporto, ditto.....	53½	53½	53½	53½
Rio Janeiro, ditto.....	—	27	—	—

PRICES OF BULLION.

	Per Ounce.	Per Ounce.	Per Ounce.	Per Ounce.
Foreign Gold in Bars, (Standard).....	£3 17 9	£3 17 9	£3 17 9	£3 17 9
New Dollars.....	0 4 11½	0 4 11½	0 5 0	0 5 0
Silver in Bars (Stand.)	0 5 1½	0 5 1½	0 5 1½	—

Bankers' Magazine Appendix.—March, 1854.

Bankers' Weekly Circulation Returns.

Pursuant to the Act 7 & 8 Victoria, c. 32; extracted from the LONDON GAZETTES.

PRIVATE BANKS.

NAME OF BANK.	Authorised Issue.	AVERAGE AMOUNT.			
		Dec. 31.	Jan. 7.	Jan. 14.	Jan. 21.
		£	£	£	£
1 Andover Bank	17,751	13,509	12,757	13,785	13,177
2 Ashford Bank	11,849	11,896	12,882	11,910	10,450
3 Aylsham Bank	5,854	4,439	4,401	4,681	4,841
4 Aylesbury Old Bank	48,461	31,534	31,022	32,070	32,533
5 Baldock and Biggleswade Bank ..	37,223	27,762	28,503	27,391	26,957
6 Barnstaple Bank	17,182	9,582	9,836	9,431	9,796
7 Basingstoke and Odiham Bank ...	24,730	16,859	17,462	19,101	19,877
8 Bedford Bank	34,218	33,738	33,660	33,543	33,571
9 Bewdley Bank	18,597	11,495	11,630	10,338	12,038
10 Bicester and Oxfordshire Bank ...	27,090	14,738	14,560	14,732	14,502
11 Birmingham Bank—Attwoods & Co.	23,695	23,920	23,990	23,659	22,983
12 Birmingham and Warwickshire Bk.	18,132	10,685	10,447	11,041	11,400
13 Blandford Bank	9,723	7,901	7,437	8,772	9,041
14 Boston Bank—Garfit and Co.	75,069	64,499	65,881	67,612	68,071
15 Boston Bank—Gee and Co.	15,161	13,437	13,587	14,111	13,232
16 Bridgewater Bank	10,028	5,927	5,698	5,960	5,958
17 Bristol Bank	48,277	41,240	41,305	40,987	40,499
18 Broseley and Bridgenorth Bank ...	26,717	19,113	18,179	18,135	18,961
19 Buckingham Bank	29,557	19,972	20,035	21,210	21,974
20 Bury and Suffolk Bank	82,362	72,512	74,245	75,612	75,395
21 Banbury Bank	43,457	36,264	35,581	36,700	38,509
22 Banbury Old Bank	55,153	25,907	25,354	25,199	26,196
23 Bath City Bank	4,572	3,900	3,848	3,971	3,958
24 Bedfordshire Leighton Buzzard Bk.	36,829	33,757	34,555	36,197	35,992
25 Birmingham Bk.—Taylor & Lloyds	38,816	31,960	31,158	34,905	36,943
26 Bradford Old Bank	12,676	11,345	11,508	10,880	11,700
27 Brecon Old Bank	68,271	64,868	66,474	67,457	63,943
28 Brighton Union Bank	33,794	25,254	26,652	27,889	27,849
29 Burlington and Driffield Bank	12,745	11,839	12,268	12,884	12,350
30 Bury St. Edmund's Bank	3,201	2,688	2,986	2,630	2,375
31 Cambridge Bk.—Mortlock & Co.	25,744	16,641	18,283	18,517	18,394
32 Cambridge and Cambridgeshire Bk.	49,916	43,023	42,855	44,370	46,075
33 Canterbury Bank	33,671	33,529	34,755	34,542	30,875
34 Carmarthen Bank	23,597	22,228	22,546	23,081	23,978
35 Chertsey Bank	3,436	3,352	3,812	3,377	2,777
36 Colchester Bank	25,082	17,660	17,861	17,969	18,355
37 Colchester and Essex Bank	47,704	32,039	32,049	33,798	33,408
38 Cornish Bank—Tweedy & Co. ...	49,869	47,157	47,476	48,794	48,215
39 Coventry Bank	12,045	7,362	7,346	7,284	7,495
40 City Bank, Exeter.	21,527	21,160	21,004	21,502	21,520
41 Craven Bank—Allocks & Co. ...	77,154	69,201	70,404	70,390	70,033
42 Cardiff Bank	7,001	5,984	5,956	6,482	6,420
43 Chepstow Old Bank	9,387	8,205	8,332	8,783	8,756
44 Derby Bank—Messrs. Evans	13,332	11,669	11,727	12,565	13,417
45 Derby Bank—Smith and Co.	41,304	39,233	40,280	40,128	39,248
46 Derby Old Bank	27,237	25,225	27,022	26,561	27,941
47 Devizes and Wiltshire Bank	20,674	9,526	9,924	10,231	10,068
48 Diss Bank	10,657	10,361	10,182	9,962	9,550
49 Doncaster Bank and Retford Bank	77,400	68,233	71,924	74,372	74,619
50 Darlington Bank	86,218	84,268	86,304	87,870	84,984

WEEKLY RETURNS OF BANKS OF ISSUE.

NAME OF BANK.	Authorised Issue.	AVERAGE AMOUNT.			
		Dec. 31.	Jan. 7.	Jan. 14.	Jan. 21.
	£	£	£	£	£
51 Devonport Bank	10,664	11,345	11,187	10,325	9,783
52 Dorchester Old Bank	48,807	45,175	45,702	48,009	48,091
53 East Cornwall Bk.—Robins & Co.	112,280	104,429	102,604	103,603	104,225
54 East Riding Bank—Bower & Co.	53,392	50,005	51,526	53,596	53,816
55 Essex Bk. & Bishops Stortford Bk.	69,637	40,617	43,345	43,890	45,370
56 Exeter Bank	37,894	28,672	28,920	28,770	28,829
57 Fakenham Bank	24,293	23,659	24,258	24,900	22,978
58 Faringdon Bk. & Bk. of Wantage	8,977	6,666	6,725	6,944	7,200
59 Farnham Bank	14,202	11,788	11,211	11,606	12,060
60 Faversham Bank	6,681	5,658	6,058	6,368	5,806
61 Godalming Bank	6,322	5,177	5,085	5,454	5,499
62 Guildford Bank	14,524	5,606	6,259	6,395	6,323
63 Grantham Bank—Hardy and Co.	30,372	26,598	27,351	28,522	29,260
64 Hastings Old Bank	38,038	34,135	34,024	38,295	37,110
65 Hereford City and County Bank	22,364	17,180	17,723	18,130	17,808
66 Hertford and Ware Bank	23,635	21,517	22,777	23,751	22,961
67 Hull & Kingston-upon-Hull Bank	19,979	20,492	20,496	19,654	18,736
68 Huntingdon Town & County Bank	56,591	45,450	46,748	47,039	47,954
69 Harwich Bank	5,778	5,119	5,115	5,400	5,544
70 Hemel Hempstead Bank	23,842	22,977	23,090	23,897	24,135
71 Hertfordshire, Hitchin Bank	38,764	35,129	36,910	38,740	37,408
72 Hereford, Ross, & Archenfield Bk.	27,625	20,291	19,181	20,413	22,298
73 Ipswich Bank	21,901	21,200	22,160	22,389	21,387
74 Ipswich & Needham Market Bank	80,699	62,669	64,696	66,181	65,681
75 Kentish Bank—Mercer & Co.	19,895	14,760	15,701	16,670	16,440
76 Kington and Radnorshire Bank	26,050	31,351	27,129	23,053	24,399
77 Knighton Bank	9,090	9,035	9,008	9,104	9,100
78 Knaresborough Old Bank	21,825	19,518	20,040	20,888	21,448
79 Kendal Bank	44,663	39,859	39,142	38,583	37,655
80 Kettering Bank	9,192	8,594	8,734	9,401	9,497
81 Lane End Staffordshire Bank	5,624	5,450	5,142	5,251	5,323
82 Leeds Bank	53,357	52,121	53,256	52,866	53,799
83 Leeds Union Bank	37,459	37,161	37,505	37,271	37,515
84 Leicester Bank	32,322	27,700	28,741	29,644	28,695
85 Lewes Old Bank	44,836	32,303	40,665	33,922	34,435
86 Lichfield Bank	22,786	10,825	11,688	11,878	12,280
87 Lincoln Bank	100,342	84,738	87,227	90,804	91,005
88 Llandoverly Bank & Llandilo Bank	32,945	19,427	18,239	16,749	15,453
89 Loughborough Bank	7,359	7,132	6,871	7,133	7,474
90 Lymington Bank	5,038	3,547	3,832	4,465	4,290
91 Lynn Regis and Lincolnshire Bank	42,817	36,790	39,577	39,078	38,436
92 Lynn Regis and Norfolk Bank	13,917	11,078	11,874	11,685	11,343
93 Macclesfield Bank	15,760	15,841	16,225	15,945	14,972
94 Maunington Bank	7,692	2,406	2,930	3,029	3,393
95 Merionethshire Bank	10,906	9,972	9,745	9,083	8,106
96 Miners' Bank	18,688	17,569	17,451	17,917	18,510
97 Monmouthshire Agricultural and Commercial Bank	29,335	27,459	28,915	30,533	27,780
98 Monmouth Old Bank	16,385	14,709	14,170	14,549	14,555
99 Newark Bank	28,788	26,110	25,744	26,134	25,752
100 Newark and Sleaford Bank	51,615	48,253	48,456	51,328	51,012
101 Newbury Bank	36,787	22,290	21,651	22,294	22,589
102 Newmarket Bank	23,098	17,488	17,400	18,242	18,304
103 Norwich Crown Bank and Norfolk and Suffolk Bank	49,671	48,663	48,732	49,425	49,230
104 Norwich and Norfolk Bank	75,372	71,147	73,170	73,596	73,153
105 Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Bank	10,866	10,204	9,508	10,083	9,287

WEEKLY RETURNS OF BANKS OF ISSUE.

NAME OF BANK.	Authorized Issue.	AVERAGE AMOUNT.			
		Dec. 31.	Jan. 7.	Jan. 14.	Jan. 21.
	£	£	£	£	£
106 Nuneaton Bank	5,898	2,960	3,133	2,976	3,124
107 Naval Bank, Plymouth	27,321	23,080	25,595	27,337	26,704
108 New Sarum Bk.—Everett & Smith	15,659	11,240	12,279	12,935	13,988
109 Nottingham Bank	31,047	29,409	29,653	30,659	31,125
110 Oswestry Bank	18,471	11,190	11,187	11,285	11,020
111 Oxford Old Bank	34,391	35,181	34,223	31,787	30,882
112 Old Bank, Tonbridge	13,183	9,514	9,920	9,804	10,151
113 Oxfordshire Witney Bank	11,852	8,560	9,616	10,027	9,549
114 Pease's Old Bank, Hull	48,807	47,617	47,603	47,743	46,653
115 Penzance Bank	11,405	11,414	10,916	10,447	10,302
116 Peterborough Bank—Yorke & Co.	12,545	7,784	8,472	8,712	8,911
117 Pembrokeshire Bank	12,910	12,013	12,316	12,605	12,845
118 Reading Bank—Simmonds & Co.	37,519	27,769	27,785	28,397	29,837
119 Reading Bk.—Stephens & Blandy	43,271	28,184	28,539	29,845	30,015
120 Richmond Bank, Richmond	6,889	6,539	6,953	6,276	6,255
121 Rochdale Bank	5,590	4,616	5,053	5,196	5,190
122 Rochester, Chatham, & Strood Bk.	10,480	7,508	8,151	8,372	8,699
123 Royston Bank	16,393	12,882	12,807	13,484	14,513
124 Rugby Bank	17,250	10,289	10,465	11,271	11,303
125 Rye Bank	29,864	15,961	15,967	16,349	16,978
126 Ross Old Bank, Herefordshire ...	4,420	3,855	4,011	4,787	4,761
127 Saffron Walden & North Essex Bk.	47,646	35,759	36,352	35,734	37,896
128 Salop Bank	22,338	15,723	16,343	17,175	16,240
129 Scarborough Old Bank	24,813	24,534	24,489	24,550	24,737
130 Shrewsbury Old Bank	43,191	42,502	42,618	44,280	42,324
131 Sittingbourne and Milton Bank ...	4,789	2,155	2,638	3,027	3,102
132 Southampton Town & County Bk.	18,589	12,883	15,237	15,438	15,062
133 Southwell Bank	14,744	11,759	12,194	12,714	12,331
134 Southampton and Hampshire Bk.	6,770	3,949	3,900	4,287	3,991
135 Stone Bank	9,154	385	385	385	385
136 Stafford Old Bank	14,166	11,633	11,727	12,263	12,193
137 Stamford and Rutland Bank	31,858	29,149	29,670	31,623	31,422
138 Shrewsbury and Welsh Pool Bank	25,336	22,920	23,533	24,073	23,774
139 Taunton Bank	29,799	25,295	24,506	25,249	25,796
140 Tavistock Bank	13,421	10,430	11,129	11,321	10,676
141 Thornbury Bank	10,026	6,231	6,406	6,437	6,395
142 Tiverton and Devonshire Bank ...	13,470	10,000	10,518	10,625	9,944
143 Thrapstone and Kettering Bank	11,559	10,818	11,162	11,784	11,794
144 Tring Bank and Chesham Bank	13,531	12,884	13,575	14,046	13,195
145 Towcester Old Bank	10,801	7,661	7,851	7,895	8,133
146 Town and County of Poole Bk. and Ringwood and Poole Bk.	11,856	9,811	9,347	10,062	10,319
147 Union Bank, Cornwall	17,003	11,671	12,302	13,005	11,568
148 Uxbridge Old Bank	25,136	13,573	14,327	14,851	15,339
149 Wallingford Bank	17,064	8,371	8,957	9,240	9,515
150 Warwick and Warwickshire Bank	30,504	22,035	23,458	25,443	24,717
151 Wellington Bank, Somerset	6,528	3,628	3,483	3,663	3,442
152 West Riding Bank	46,158	47,609	47,719	45,101	42,439
153 Whitchy Old Bank	14,258	14,555	13,987	13,935	14,256
154 Winchester, Alresford & Alton Bk.	25,892	19,880	20,106	20,783	21,705
155 Winchester and Hampshire Bank	6,737	4,932	5,632	5,892	6,286
156 Weymouth Old Bank	16,451	13,865	14,134	15,884	16,304
157 Wirksworth and Derbyshire Bk.	37,602	35,828	36,727	37,167	36,429
158 Wisbeach and Lincolnshire Bank	59,713	46,787	46,494	46,745	47,190
159 Wiveliscombe Bank	7,602	7,433	6,806	7,193	7,484
160 Wolverhampton Bk.—Goodricke and Co.	14,180	13,011	13,496	14,308	13,550
161 Worcester Bank	15,463	8,654	8,290	8,379	8,659

WEEKLY RETURNS OF BANKS OF ISSUE.

NAME OF BANK.	Authorized Issue.	AVERAGE AMOUNT.			
		Dec. 31.	Jan. 7.	Jan. 14.	Jan. 21.
	£	£	£	£	£
162 Worcester Old Bank	87,448	65,548	67,021	70,149	69,988
163 Worcestershire Bank	14,309	8,773	8,630	9,542	9,185
164 Wolverhampton Bank—R. & W. Fryer	11,867	11,625	11,103	11,225	12,145
165 Yarmouth and Suffolk Bank	53,060	48,987	48,577	48,890	49,045
166 Yarmouth, Norfolk, & Suffolk Bk.	13,229	13,174	12,835	12,506	11,570
167 York Bank	46,387	44,754	45,263	45,815	46,937

JOINT STOCK BANKS.

1 Bank of Westmoreland.....	12,225	8,430	8,603	9,189	9,178
2 Barnsley Banking Company	9,563	9,111	9,284	9,673	9,522
3 Bradford Banking Company	49,292	48,172	49,150	50,606	48,788
4 Bilston District Banking Company	9,418	9,361	10,069	9,184	7,354
5 Bank of Whitehaven.....	32,681	29,238	30,178	30,305	31,541
6 Bradford Commercial Banking Co.	20,084	19,433	19,686	20,680	20,323
7 Burton, Uttoxeter, and Staffordshire Union Bank	60,701	59,016	60,292	60,545	57,027
8 Chesterfield & N. Derbysh. Bk. Co.	10,421	9,544	9,916	10,026	9,813
9 Cumberland Union Banking Co....	35,395	34,461	35,447	36,437	35,094
10 Cheltenham & Glo'stershire Bk. Co.	12,786	9,002	9,030	9,113	10,113
11 Coventry and Warwickshire Bk. Co.	28,734	23,022	23,308	24,530	24,626
12 Coventry Union Banking Company	16,251	14,275	15,180	14,946	15,042
13 County of Gloucester Banking Co.	144,352	102,694	106,882	110,248	111,302
14 Carlisle & Cumberland Banking Co.	25,610	25,466	26,805	37,058	23,080
15 Carlisle City and District Bank ...	19,972	20,301	20,700	19,554	19,147
16 Dudley & West Bromwich Bk. Co.	37,696	39,012	34,880	35,354	37,541
17 Derby and Derbyshire Banking Co.	20,093	19,488	19,184	19,914	19,739
18 Darlington Dist. Joint Stock Bk. Co.	26,134	20,560	20,436	20,242	19,850
19 East of England Bank	25,025	24,176	25,635	24,043	21,720
20 Gloucestershire Banking Company	155,920	146,457	146,063	152,825	151,504
21 Halifax Joint Stock Bank.....	18,534	17,620	17,940	18,683	19,272
22 Huddersfield Banking Company...	37,354	36,532	35,325	38,235	37,550
23 Hull Banking Company	29,333	26,383	27,955	29,167	28,221
24 Halifax Commercial Banking Co....	11,733	12,697	13,471	14,060	14,188
25 Halifax & Huddersfield Union Bk.	44,137	40,842	42,098	47,347	44,926
26 Helston Banking Company	1,503	1,468	1,473	1,500	1,458
27 Herefordshire Banking Company...	25,047	18,267	17,839	17,725	17,447
28 Knaresborough and Claro Bk. Co.	28,059	28,280	27,920	27,593	27,680
29 Kingsbridge Joint Stock Bank	3,952	3,971	4,129	3,836	3,805
30 Lancaster Banking Company	64,311	53,843	55,148	57,125	56,720
31 Leeds Banking Company	21,076	22,497	23,081	23,173	23,330
32 Leicestershire Banking Company...	86,060	72,028	73,570	74,895	76,218
33 Lincoln and Lindsey Banking Co.	51,620	42,108	43,302	46,972	50,945
34 Leamington Priors and Warwick- shire Bank	13,875	10,425	10,817	11,395	11,805
35 Ludlow and Tenbury Bank	10,215	8,883	9,435	9,741	9,988

WEEKLY RETURNS OF BANKS OF ISSUE.

NAME OF BANK.	Authorized Issue.	AVERAGE AMOUNT.			
		Dec. 31.	Jan. 7.	Jan. 14.	Jan. 21.
	£	£	£	£	£
36 Moore & Robinson's Notts. Bank...	35,813	32,800	31,939	31,295	34,220
37 Nottingham and Notts. Banking Co.	29,477	27,310	25,963	26,658	28,755
38 National Provincial Bk. of England	442,371	417,955	423,624	438,859	440,912
39 North Wilts Banking Company ...	61,939	44,247	41,900	46,560	47,580
40 Northamptonshire Union Bank ...	84,356	68,866	69,544	73,551	73,611
41 Northamptonshire Banking Co. ...	26,401	24,008	24,560	25,656	25,958
42 North and South Wales Bank.....	63,951	41,265	41,584	42,669	40,410
43 Pare's Leicestershire Banking Co....	59,300	48,726	48,171	50,080	50,470
44 Saultdeworth Banking Company ...	8,122	2,258	2,188	2,299	2,285
45 Sheffield Banking Company.....	35,843	41,979	36,479	32,550	30,966
46 Stamford, Spalding & Boston Bk. Co.	55,721	49,846	49,274	50,500	49,594
47 Stuckey's Banking Company	356,976	348,399	352,802	359,958	352,560
48 Shropshire Banking Company.....	47,951	46,795	48,830	50,144	45,119
49 Stourbridge and Kidderminster Bk.	56,830	56,342	56,295	56,995	56,317
50 Sheffield and Hallamshire Bank ...	23,524	25,530	22,386	20,610	23,676
51 Sheffield & Rotherham Jt. Stock Bk.	52,496	52,094	53,531	52,510	51,557
52 Swaledale and Wensleydale Bank..	54,372	49,652	49,081	48,863	49,063
53 Storey and Thomas's Bank	9,714	9,924	9,900	9,560	9,363
54 Wolverhampton & Staffordsh. Bk..	35,378	37,243	36,641	32,960	31,325
55 Wakefield and Barnsley Union Bk.	14,604	12,665	12,550	12,575	12,848
56 Whitehaven Joint Stock Bank ...	31,916	26,162	27,389	27,351	27,873
57 Warwick and Leamington Bk. Co.	37,124	27,675	30,199	32,669	31,024
58 West of England and South Wales District Bank	83,535	76,553	77,713	80,598	77,679
59 Wilts & Dorset Banking Company	70,162	71,971	73,210	79,249	77,466
60 West Riding Union Banking Co....	34,029	30,570	32,135	33,698	33,562
61 Whitechurch and Ellesmere Bk. Co.	7,475	4,564	4,645	4,943	4,860
62 Worcester City and County Bk. Co.	6,848	4,707	4,470	4,374	4,979
63 York Union Banking Company ...	71,240	71,282	72,490	71,580	67,715
64 York City and County Banking Co.	94,695	92,859	93,390	93,750	94,530
65 Yorkshire Banking Company	122,532	124,255	121,460	121,670	114,163

Summary of the above Returns.

	Fixed Issues.	Dec. 31.	Jan. 7.	Jan. 14.	Jan. 21.
	£	£	£	£	£
67 Private Banks	4,616,629	3,833,499	3,899,711	3,967,297	3,955,018
65 Joint Stock Banks ..	3,325,857	3,036,370	3,060,464	3,132,693	3,096,397
232 Totals.....	7,942,486	6,869,869	6,960,175	7,099,990	7,051,415

Average Weekly Circulation of these Banks for the month ending January 21st:—

Private Banks	£3,913,881
Joint Stock Banks	3,081,481

Average Weekly Circulation of Private and Joint Stock Banks ending as above £6,995,362

On a comparison of the above with the Returns for the Month ending 24th December last, it shows—

An increase in the Notes of Private Banks, of.....	£103,887
An increase in the Notes of Joint Stock Banks, of.....	25,488

Total increase on the Month..... £129,375

CIRCULATION RETURNS.

And as compared with the Month ending 22nd January, 1853, it shows—

An increase in the Notes of Private Banks, of..... £142,316

An increase in the Notes of Joint Stock Banks, of 91,879

Total increase, as compared with the same period of last year .. £234,205

The following appears to be the comparative state of the circulation, as regards the fixed issues—

The Private Banks are below their fixed issues £702,728

The Joint Stock Banks are below their fixed issues 244,376

Total BELOW the fixed issues..... £947,104

Irish and Scotch Circulation Returns.

Average Circulation, and Coin held by the IRISH and SCOTCH BANKS during the four weeks ending Saturday, the 21st day of January, 1854.

IRISH BANKS.

NAME OF BANK.	Authorised Circulation.	Average Circulation during Four Weeks, ending as above.			Average Amount of Gold & Silver Coin held during Four Weeks ending as above.
		£5 and upwards.	Under £5.	Total.	
	£	£	£	£	£
Bank of Ireland.....	3,738,428	1,899,650	1,252,025	3,151,675	785,817
Provincial Bank of Ireland	927,667	340,202	656,291	996,493	234,185
Belfast Bank	281,611	59,832	445,781	505,613	271,576
Northern Bank	243,440	35,056	244,558	279,614	66,618
Ulster Bank	311,079	50,736	448,525	499,261	215,703
National Bank of Ireland...	761,757	383,862	642,682	1,026,546	380,167
Carriek-on-Suir Nat. Bank	24,084	10,441	13,434	23,875	5,739
Clonmel National Bank ...	66,428	26,265	30,387	56,652	11,428
TOTALS (Irish Banks) ...	6,354,494	2,806,044	3,733,684	6,539,729	1,971,233

SCOTCH BANKS.

Bank of Scotland	300,485	128,545	266,721	395,266	175,907
Royal Bank of Scotland ...	183,000	71,784	126,406	198,190	51,885
British Linen Company	438,024	181,002	320,567	501,570	157,331
Commercial Bk. of Scotland	374,880	168,255	337,542	505,797	185,915
National Bank of Scotland..	297,024	107,121	230,421	337,542	83,225
Union Bank of Scotland and Banking Com. in Aberdeen	415,690	170,507	353,726	524,233	166,287
Edinburgh & Glasgow Bk...	136,657	64,484	97,374	161,858	57,419
Aberdeen Town and Co. Bk.	33,636	32,281	67,733	100,014	36,839
North of Scotland Bk. Co...	154,119	74,451	105,189	179,640	49,673
Dundee Banking Company	33,451	9,501	25,942	35,443	6,867
Eastern Bank of Scotland...	33,636	17,251	25,193	42,444	11,876
Western Bank of Scotland..	337,938	146,647	375,673	522,320	245,683
Clydesdale Banking Co. ...	104,028	42,264	102,062	144,326	65,696
City of Glasgow Bank	72,921	75,781	94,356	170,137	107,627
Caledonian Banking Co. ...	53,434	21,350	49,578	70,928	24,617
Perth Banking Company ...	38,656	15,267	33,916	49,183	16,716
Central Bank of Scotland...	42,933	18,821	40,413	59,235	24,122
TOTALS (Scotch Banks)...	3,087,209	1,345,312	2,652,812	3,998,126	1,467,685

CIRCULATION RETURNS.

SUMMARY OF IRISH & SCOTCH RETURNS TO JANUARY 21, 1854.

The Returns of Circulation of the Irish and Scotch Banks for the four weeks ending 21st January, when added together, give the following as the average weekly circulation of these banks during the past month, viz. :—

Average Circulation of the Irish Banks... £6,539,739
Average Circulation of the Scotch Banks 3,998,126

Total Average Circulation of these Banks
for the past month £10,537,865

On comparing these amounts with the Returns for the month ending 24th December last, they show—

Increase in the Circulation of Irish Banks £86,502
Decrease in the Circulation of Scotch Banks 114,661

Total decrease on the month £28,159

And as compared with the month ending January 22nd, 1853, they show—

Increase in the Circulation of Irish Banks £850,078
Increase in the Circulation of Scotch Banks 385,416

Total increase on the year 1,235,494

The fixed issues of the Irish and Scotch Banks at the present time are given in the *Banking Almanac*, as follows :—

8 Banks in Ireland, allowed to issue... £6,354,494
18 Banks in Scotland, allowed to issue .. 3,087,209

26 Banks in all allowed to issue..... £9,441,703

The following appears, therefore, to be the comparative state of the circulation :—

Irish Banks are above their fixed issue .. £185,238
Scotch Banks are above their fixed issue 910,917

Total above the fixed issue £1,096,152

The amounts of Gold and Silver held at the head offices of the several Banks, during the past month, have been as follows :—

Gold and Silver held by the Irish Banks £1,971,233
Gold and Silver held by the Scotch Banks 1,467,685

Total of Gold and Silver Coin £3,438,918

Being an increase of £3,013 on the part of the Irish Banks, and a decrease of £91,485 on the part of the Scotch Banks, on the several amounts held by them during the preceding month.

CIRCULATION OF THE UNITED KINGDOM TO JANUARY 21, 1854.

The following is the state of the Note Circulation of the United Kingdom, for the month ending the 21st January, 1854.

Circulation of Notes for the Month ending January 21st, as compared with the previous month :

	Dec. 24.	Jan. 21.	Increase.	Decrease.
Bank of England	£20,916,760	£21,659,595	£742,835	—
Private Banks	3,809,994	3,913,881	103,887	—
Joint Stock Banks	3,055,993	3,061,481	25,488	—
Total in England	27,782,747	28,654,957	872,210	—
Scotland.....	4,112,787	3,998,126	—	£114,661
Ireland.....	6,453,227	6,539,739	86,502	—
United Kingdom.....	38,348,761	39,182,812	958,712	114,661

The comparison of the month ending January 22nd, 1853, with the month ending January 21st, 1854, shows a decrease in the Bank of England circulation of £1,727,740, an increase in Private Banks of £142,326, and an increase in Joint Stock Banks of £91,879 ; being a total decrease in England of £1,493,535 ; while in Scotland there is an increase of £385,416 ; and in Ireland an increase of £850,078. Thus showing that the month ending 21st January, as compared with the same period last year, presents a decrease of £1,493,535 in England, and a decrease of £258,041 in the United Kingdom.

The return of Bullion in the Bank of England, for the month ending January 21st, gives an aggregate amount in both departments of £15,962,342. On a comparison of this with the Return for the month ending December 24th, there appears to be an increase of £536,302 ; and a decrease of £3,749,335 as compared with the same period last year.

The stock of specie held by the Banks in Scotland and Ireland during the month ending 21st January, was £3,438,918 ; being a decrease of £88,472 as compared with the return of the previous month, and an increase of £736,987 as compared with the corresponding period last year.

THE BANKERS' MAGAZINE,

AND

Journal of the Money Market.

APRIL, 1854.

GOVERNMENT FINANCE.

THE Budget has been brought forward at an early period of the session, for the purpose of affording the Government an opportunity of laying before the country the position of their financial resources. This course of proceeding has been rendered necessary by the extraordinary expenditure incurred in preparing the expedition to the East, and the despatch of our fleets to the Black and Baltic Seas. The public, under such circumstances, anticipated a re-arrangement of taxation, if not the imposition of fresh burdens, the deficiency estimated in the revenue being greater than even that calculated on a close review of the general items by the Chancellor of the Exchequer himself.

It is satisfactory to discover that while economy has been studied in the several departments which require the increased outlay, it has not been exercised in a manner likely to jeopardise the effectiveness of our forces, whether on sea or land, and that the entire administration are agreed upon the soundness of the policy at length, though tardily, adopted. Speaking with strict impartiality, there is perhaps less doubt than formerly among those classes who have advocated peace at almost any sacrifice, upon a recourse to this demonstration against Russia, since the publication of the "secret and confidential correspondence;" and wonder is in many quarters expressed that the Czar should have been permitted, with evidence so irrefragable of his ulti-

mate intentions, to cross the Pruth, and subsequently pour his troops into Moldavia and Wallachia. While the whole of the negotiation, from the period of the visit of the Emperor in 1844, to the latest conversation with Sir Hamilton Seymour, is highly creditable to those who were in power, and instructed our ambassador; and to that discreet functionary, we cannot but feel, what we know many influential parties feel, that the deliberate proposals made from that date, and continued to the latest moment, previously to the dispatch of Prince Menschikoff to Constantinople, should have roused their vigilance, and caused them to have resisted the earliest movement indicating hostile aggression.

But there is an old adage, that "byegones should be regarded as byegones," and on this principle the general public seem disposed to deal with such presumed *laches*. The war is popular, and on this ground any small default, like that we have described, was sure readily to be overlooked. We are in the midst of a most perplexing position, not certainly entailed by our own seeking; and having taken up the cause of the weaker power, the gauntlet so intrusively thrust upon our notice has been accepted, and the challenger will have to bear the responsibility of his imprudence.

War being considered inevitable, it was the duty of the ministry, while arranging the necessary preparations, to come before Parliament, and to present the cost to the consideration of those empowered to deal with the question. This has been done, with the tact and ability usually displayed by Mr. Gladstone, when representing the Government in the House of Commons. An increased property and income-tax, with a power to issue £1,750,000 Exchequer bills, are the sources whence he proposes to derive the requisite amount for defraying the expenses already incurred.* His measures have encountered little resistance; and, meeting with the sanction of the great majority, will at once be brought into operation. They are probably the best that could have been devised at the moment for raising the few millions called for; but it requires to be explained why a portion of the deficiency should not have been obtained through annuities, which would have been a preferable medium of investment, and have saved the dreaded augmentation of that which, though it may be regarded as a politic, will always remain an unpopular impost.

The "great engine" of direct taxation will serve for a time

* Having furnished an elaborate abstract of the Chancellor of the Exchequer's statement in another part of the *Bankers' Magazine*, it is not considered essential to go into precise details.

and prove very productive; but more fortunate Chancellors than Mr. Gladstone would hesitate to stretch the power with which they have been entrusted, to the extent he appears inclined to do, in carrying out a favourite theory. He repudiates in the most distinct terms the notion of increasing the capital of the national debt, the school of political economy in which he has studied being adverse to the proceeding. Desirable as a reduction of the huge total may be, and, although many plans have been suggested, without one being actually effective, we have not yet arrived at a pitch of prosperity which will allow so important a reformation to be carried out. Mr. Gladstone's grand conversion scheme of 1853, which must always be associated with his early entrance into practical financial life—attractive as it was in several points—failed to realise the expectations entertained of it; and admitted, as it is by himself, to have been “abortive,” it may be adopted as a good practical illustration of the inutility of any immediate similar attempts.

His feeling, however, evidently is—“if we cannot decrease the debt, defer as long as possible any augmentation of it.” So say we; but, in the mean time, he must be admonished not to neglect the channels to which he may be at last compelled to resort, to give strength to his resources and free effect to his engagements. Straightened as he has been by the failure of the commutation scheme, through the heavy payments made to dissentients, which have reduced the Exchequer balances to a *minimum* point, and have obliged him to seek assistance at the Bank of England on deficiency bills, he is following a very objectionable course; and we cannot help thinking that he will eventually find that he has compromised his situation by this species of accommodation, which, however easily obtained, will have at no distant date to be arranged.

There is much truth in the observations made by Mr. Disraeli, with regard to the state of our finances in this particular. The directors of the Bank of England are always ready to accommodate the Government so long as it is consistent with their duty to the proprietors; but if the value of money should go on increasing in proportion to the prospect of extended hostilities and disturbed trade, then it will be incompatible with the functions of their office to continue this assistance unless at enhanced rates. Hitherto we have seen the doubtful effects of the “deficiency system” demonstrated in the absorption of whatever surplus has remained from the quarter's revenue, which, under a different regulation, would have been appropriated to the purchase of stock. When, therefore, the Chancellor of the Exchequer takes credit to himself for the saving he has effected in the payment of interest on the debt, he must not forget that the

positive redemption of the capital has been in a degree thwarted by the application of the funds in an opposite and less legitimate direction. The system of raising money to meet temporary exigencies upon deficiency bills is not altogether to be condemned; but, when pursued with such constancy, and on such an extensive scale as is now the case, it should induce reflection in the minds of those who so unhesitatingly encourage it.

What will become of the "deficiency system," or, on the other hand, of the issue of the new Exchequer bills, if the rate of discount shall remain for the present at 5 per cent? Mr. Gladstone will, at least, have to augment the interest on his securities to a corresponding extent, if the credit of the country is to be maintained on a sound basis, and the unfunded debt supported above par. His recent experiments have not been successful, because events over which he possessed little or no control have intervened to destroy their probable effect; but in this last we apprehend he is essaying one of a still more dangerous character.

The principal cause of the apparent difficulties of the Government may be traced to the large drafts upon their resources for liquidating the South Sea and other minor securities, which compelled the Chancellor to use the greater part of the Exchequer balances, and to apply for accommodation at the Bank. True it is, that with the votes for increased income-tax, and the issue of Exchequer bills, he shows on paper a result sufficient to cover the demands arising from the war expenditure; but we shall be agreeably astonished in the long run, if he shall be found to have provided for them in full. The property and income-tax may, it must be confessed, yield all that is expected from them; and the Exchequer bills, when put out, will no doubt come into active circulation, but scarcely, we fear, at a rate of three or even four per cent., without political and financial relations speedily experience a marked alteration.

While thus dissenting in a measure from the plans intended to be carried out for raising the means to meet the general deficit, we must give the Chancellor of the Exchequer credit for his views in relation to the tariff. We are advocates for direct taxation, and would wish to see it properly enforced, but under modified regulations which should equitably affect all classes. Of course, as he intimates, he will be prepared, should protracted hostilities ensue, to make a readjustment of taxation to the extent of a reimposition of duties which have been abolished; but such an alteration will only be attempted to fill up a greater void than is yet contemplated. Compared with the movements of other countries at this juncture, our position forms a striking contrast. We are standing aloof from the negotiation of fresh loans, while nearly the whole of Europe

adopt this method to replenish their exhausted treasuries. It is a great question after all, looking as we do with undiminished concern at the embarrassed condition of our political relations, whether Mr. Gladstone, eschewing the notion of relieving posterity from the expenses which should be borne by the present generation, would not have been warranted in coming into the market as a borrower, and supplying his wants on much better terms than he will be able, if eventually compelled to present himself at a more remote period. We trust that our apprehensions respecting the prospective financial difficulties of the Government may turn out to be premature; but, with war close at hand, and other contingent circumstances, we are inclined to view their future career as one not unaccompanied by danger.

THE BANKRUPTCY OF MESSRS. CHAMBERS AND SON.

THE final liquidation of the estate of Messrs. Chambers, the bankers, has elicited a great deal of commiseration for those who were compelled, through a long litigation, to endure extraordinary privations, and even imprisonment, in resisting what was then considered the oppression of the law. After a lapse of twenty-nine years the affairs of the firm have been brought to a conclusion, not, however, before an arrangement with the senior partner, effected some time after the full force of legal proceedings had been in operation, gave him a competency which, though inadequate to the sacrifice made of his property, at length relieved him from the unfortunate position in which he had been placed. Though advanced in age, Mr. Abraham Henry Chambers, senior, survived the announcement of the general adjustment of his estate; and notwithstanding the lavish expenditure both in law and the collateral disadvantages of a bankruptcy administration, the net dividend realised has been sufficient to prove that originally there existed twenty shillings in the pound, with an ample surplus for the partners. The annexed statement of the principal features in the progress of this remarkable case, will be interesting to most persons, but especially those connected with banking interests.

Abraham Henry Chambers the elder, and Abraham Henry Chambers the younger, were bankers, in New Bond Street and South Molton Street, and stopped payment in November, 1824, and their affairs were placed in the hands of a committee of management. On 19th November, 1825, a commission of bank-

ruptcy was issued against them, on the petition of Mr. A'Beckett, of Golden Square. On 7th December, Francis Bernasconi, jun., of Alfred Place, Bedford Square, gentleman; Richard Groom, of Russell Square, gentleman; John Richardson, of Tichborne Street, job-master; Ralph Garrett, of Hanover Square, tailor; and William Leonard, of Parson's Green, were chosen assignees; and Messrs. Mayhew and Johnston, of Carey Street, Chancery Lane, were appointed solicitors.

Mr. Chambers, sen., disputed the validity of his bankruptcy; and very expensive litigation having for some years taken place, he then presented a petition to the Lord Chancellor, praying the supersedeas of the commission. The Lords Commissioners of the Great Seal directed a trial at law, in the Court of Common Pleas, upon the issue, whether Mr. Chambers had committed an act of bankruptcy; and the cause having in October, 1835, come on for trial, and the assignees' (the plaintiffs') case having been closed (the position of the matter being most critical), the assignees, with the consent of the Lord Chancellor and the creditors, agreed, on the bankrupt admitting the validity of the commission, to pay the sum of £23,400; and the bankrupt having accordingly admitted the validity of the commission, this amount, with interest, was subsequently paid, pursuant to the conditions of the indenture executed by the bankrupt and his assignees.

Although the assignees had now, as they thought, brought the estate to that point when the assets could be realised, it turned out that their wishes were frustrated. A sum of £13,000, part of the £23,400 above mentioned, was set apart for payment of the costs of the solicitors of Mr. Chambers, but it was found to be insufficient for that purpose, arising from the claims of Mr. Wilton, one of the attorneys of the bankrupt, who had obtained judgments for a large amount against the bankrupt's estates, under the assumption that Mr. Chambers was not a bankrupt. It was stated by Mr. Chambers that a large portion of these claims would either be voluntarily foregone in consideration of an immediate payment, or could be got rid of by taxation. Unhappily this was not at that time accomplished, and the estates could not then be sold, in consequence of the judgments hanging over them.

The creditors now became very dissatisfied, and anxious for a dividend. Three of the assignees, Messrs. Bernasconi, Garrett, and Leonard, having in the meantime died, it was considered that if new blood were introduced, it might infuse more vigour into the operations of those who were entrusted with the management of the estate. Accordingly proper steps were taken for this object, and on the 28th November, 1839, three new assignees, Messrs. Edward Legh, of Regent Street, wine merchant,

James Deren, of Charles Street, Berkeley Square, auctioneer, and Richard Artis, of Margate, gentleman, were chosen in the place of those gentlemen who were dead; and they deemed it advisable to change the solicitors to the estate, and appointed Messrs. Few, Hamilton and Few, of Henrietta Street, Covent Garden. As time rolled on, matters began to look more promising. A few years afterwards Mr. Hamilton, the member of the firm who attended to this estate, also died. The assignees then appointed Mr. John Espin, of Bedford Row, his successor. The title of the assignees to the Opera House having been brought by appeal before the House of Lords, their Lordships gave judgment in favour of the assignees. After a long negotiation the assignees effected a sale of the Opera House for £100,000; and with this sum and the accumulations under the estate they were enabled in November, 1845, to declare the first dividend of nine shillings in the pound.

The Chettle estate, another valuable property of the bankrupts, was afterwards brought into the market, and sold by auction for £24,400. In January, 1847, a second dividend of 3s. 4d. in the pound was accordingly declared. The sum of £10,000 having been reserved to cover certain judgments obtained by Mr. Wilton and others (and which judgments had, by judicial proceedings or by compromise, eventually been got rid of), it was set at liberty, and in March, 1850, a third dividend of 1s. in the pound was declared. At different times various sums of money had been paid into the Court of Chancery in the Opera House causes. In 1853 a decree was pronounced in favour of the assignees, under which they received out of court the sum of £34,771 4s. 6d., and in November of that year a final dividend of 2s. 10d. in the pound was declared, making in the whole 16s. 2d. in the pound.

The total amount of debts proved against the joint estate is £225,500 7s. 6d., and the total amount paid in dividends has been £182,481 4s. 10d.

This estate has been unparalleled in the extent of legal controversy that has ensued under it. The assignees have been parties to suits and proceedings in nearly all the courts of law and equity; and notwithstanding the risks and liabilities to which they were exposed, they were not dismayed, but persevered and brought the estate to what, considering the difficulties of the case, may be deemed at this time a satisfactory conclusion. Of the creditor assignees only two now survive—Mr. Edward Legh, who, since his appointment in 1839, has taken the most active part in the matter, and Mr. Richard Artis. Mr. Groom, the official assignee, has also during the last two months resigned his office, and retired from his public duties.

Mr. Chambers, sen., as we have already stated, survived to learn the announcement of the declaration of a final dividend, and died on the 4th December, at a very advanced age.

As a curious relic of an extraordinary case, we subjoin a copy of the indenture of agreement entered into between Mr. Chambers and the assignees of the estate, for the payment of the sum of £23,400, to induce the former to admit the act of bankruptcy.

"This indenture, made the 18th day of November, in the year of our Lord 1835, between the several persons who have subscribed their names to these presents (except Richard Groom, John Richardson, and James Foster Groom, hereafter mentioned), being (except the three persons named as aforesaid) creditors of Abraham Henry Chambers the elder, and Abraham Henry Chambers the younger, late of New Bond-street, in the county of Middlesex, bankers, bankrupts, of the first part; and the said Richard Groom, of Henrietta-street, Cavendish-square, in the said county of Middlesex, esquire, and the said John Richardson, of Oxford-terrace, Edgeware-road, in the said county, esquire (surviving assignees of the estate and effects of the said Abraham Henry Chambers the elder, and Abraham Henry Chambers the younger,) and James Foster Groom, of Abchurch-lane, in the city of London, accountant, official assignee of the same estate and effects, of the second part. Whereas a commission of bankrupt, bearing date at Westminster, on or about the 19th day of November, in the year 1825, was awarded and issued, and is now in prosecution against Abraham Henry Chambers the elder, and Abraham Henry Chambers the younger, of New Bond-street, in the county of Middlesex, bankers. And whereas the validity of the said commission of bankrupt was some years since, and hath continued to be, disputed by the said Abraham Henry Chambers the elder and other persons acting in conjunction with him, and divers actions at law and other proceedings have been had and prosecuted by the said Abraham Henry Chambers the elder, and such other persons as last aforesaid, with a view to the contesting the validity of the said commission of bankrupt, and procuring a supersedeas of such commission. And whereas (amongst other such proceedings) the said Abraham Henry Chambers the elder, some time in or about the month of September, 1834, presented his petition to the Lord High Chancellor of Great Britain, praying (amongst other things) a supersedeas of the said commission. And whereas the said petition came on to be heard before the Lords Commissioners of the Great Seal in or about the month of August last (1835), and by an order of the said Lords Commissioners, dated on or about the 24th day of August last (1835), the said Lords Commissioners ordered that the parties should forthwith proceed to a trial at law in His Majesty's Court of Common Pleas, upon the issue whether, at the time of issuing the said commission of bankrupt, and subsequent to the 1st day of September, 1825, the said Abraham Henry Chambers the elder had committed an act of bankruptcy, in which issue the said Richard Groom, John Richardson, and James Foster Groom were to be plaintiffs, and the said Abraham Henry Chambers the elder, defendant. And whereas the said issue came on to be tried before Sir Nicolas Conyngham Tindal, the Chief Justice of the said Court of Common Pleas, on or about the 28th day of October last (1835), and the case for the plaintiffs in such issue (the said assignees) was closed on the 30th day of October last (1835). And whereas it was and is considered desirable for the creditors of the said Abraham Henry Chambers the elder, and Abraham Henry Chambers the younger, that some arrangement should be made and entered into between the said

Abraham Henry Chambers the elder, and the said assignees as representing the said creditors, whereby the said Abraham Henry Chambers the elder should be induced to abandon all right and claim to litigate or dispute the validity of the said commission of bankrupt, more especially as, were the verdict on the trial of the said issue to be in favour of the plaintiffs (the said assignees), such verdict might not necessarily prevent the validity of the said commission of bankrupt from being again disputed, while, until the validity of the said commission of bankrupt should be put at rest, the said assignees could not reasonably hope to beneficially convert the estate and effects of the said Abraham Henry Chambers the elder, and Abraham Henry Chambers the younger, into money, with a view to the same being distributed and divided amongst the creditors of the said Abraham Henry Chambers the elder, and Abraham Henry Chambers the younger. And whereas, with a view to effect some such arrangement as aforesaid with the said Abraham Henry Chambers the elder, the said Richard Groom, and John Richardson, and James Foster Groom, and one Joshua Mayhew, on the last-mentioned day, signed, sealed, and delivered a certain agreement with the said Abraham Henry Chambers the elder, which agreement is in the words and figures, or to the effect following (that is to say):—‘Agreement between Abraham Henry Chambers the elder, and Richard Groom, John Richardson, and James Foster Groom, who claim to be assignees of the said Abraham Henry Chambers, and Joshua Mayhew, gentleman. The said assignees engage and promise to use their utmost endeavours to procure the consent of the creditors of Chambers and Son, and of either, to the payment of the sum of £23,000 to him out of the estate and effects of the said Abraham Henry Chambers, and upon obtaining such consent, or being otherwise in a situation lawfully to do so, will do all acts on their part to enable the said Chambers to obtain such payment, such sum to be applied first, to the extent of £13,000, in the payment of the costs which the said Chambers has incurred in litigating the said commission, or incident thereto, to be taxed as between attorney and client, and to be paid to such attorneys, and in such order as the said Chambers shall direct, and the residue of the said sum of £23,000 to be paid to the said Chambers. Chambers has executed a deed, which is to be delivered over to Thomas Joshua Platt, esquire, or his nominee, to remain until the above arrangement is carried into effect to the satisfaction of Sir William Webb Follett, or his nominee, and to be delivered over to the assignees upon the written order of the said Sir William Webb Follett; Chambers to be discharged out of custody, giving a new judgment to Mayhew, the old judgment not to be deemed to be satisfied by such discharge; the new judgment to stand in all respects, and to be as valid, and to be open to every objection to which the old judgment may be liable; the Messrs. Chambers to have their certificate; and save, as herein-before mentioned, all parties to pay their own costs incurred or to be incurred, save the sum of £400, for which Mr. Chambers is now in custody, and which is so be added to the sum of £23,000; the sum of £7,000, part of the above residue of £23,000, to be paid to a trustee to be nominated by Sir William Webb Follett, or his nominee, to be held upon such trusts for the benefit of Mrs. Chambers and her children, as the said Sir William Webb Follett or his nominee shall direct, in aid of the dividends upon the trust debt proved under the commission.’

And whereas simultaneously with the execution of the same agreement, the said Abraham Henry Chambers the elder signed, sealed, and delivered the deed delivered over to the said Thomas Joshua Platt as aforesaid, in the words and figures, or to the effect following (that is to say):—‘This indenture, made the day of October, 1835, and made between Abraham Henry Chambers of the one part, and Richard Groom, John Richardson, and James Foster Groom, of the other part. Whereas a commission of bankrupt, dated the

19th day of November, in the year 1825, issued against the said Abraham Henry Chambers the elder, and Abraham Henry Chambers the younger, under which they have been adjudged bankrupts; and the said Abraham Henry Chambers the elder doth hereby admit and declare the said commission is a valid commission, and that such adjudication is well founded in law and fact, and that they the said Abraham Henry Chambers the elder, and Abraham Henry Chambers the younger, did become bankrupts; and that the said Richard Groom, John Richardson, and James Foster Groom, are the assignees of their estate and effects; and the said Abraham Henry Chambers the elder doth hereby covenant and agree with the said assignees that he will, upon the request and at the costs of the said assignees, make, do, and execute all lawful acts, deeds, matters, and things which may be required to establish the said commission, and the acts of the assignees thereunder heretofore done, and to assist in settling, disposing, and conveying the estate and effects; and if any dispute shall arise regarding any act, deed, matter, or thing required to be done, the same shall be decided by Sir William Webb Follett, or his appointee: and the said Abraham Henry Chambers doth hereby further covenant with the said assignees, that he will not in any manner object to, interfere with, or contest or oppose the title of the said assignees; and on which indenture is endorsed a memorandum, in the words and figures following (that is to say):— ‘Signed, sealed, and delivered as an escrow, the same to become a perfect, efficient, and valid deed, upon the signature of Sir William Webb Follett, or his nominee, to a certificate to that effect.—J. Mallyon.’ And whereas the said Lord Chief Justice of the Court of Common Pleas, with a view to afford opportunity for carrying the said arrangement into effect, on the said 31st day of October last (1835), adjourned the further trial of the said issue until the sittings after Michaelmas Term in this present year (one thousand eight hundred and thirty-five). And whereas the several persons, parties hereto, are of opinion that it will be for the benefit of the estate of the said bankrupts that the arrangement contemplated by the same agreement should be carried into effect; and the several persons, parties hereto of the first part, are desirous of investing the said Richard Groom, John Richardson, and James Foster Groom, with full powers and authorities to enable them to carry the arrangement in the same agreement mentioned into effect.

Now this indenture witnesseth, that in consideration of the premises, and also in consideration of each other of them, the several persons, parties hereto of the first part, signing these presents, each of them the several persons parties hereto of the first part, doth hereby for himself and herself, his and her heirs, executors, and administrators, direct and also covenant, promise, declare, and agree with and to the said Richard Groom, John Richardson, and James Foster Groom, and with and to each two of them, and with and to each of them, their and each and every of their executors, administrators, and assigns, in manner following (that is to say), that it shall and may be lawful for the said Richard Groom, John Richardson, and James Foster Groom, also for the said Richard Groom and John Richardson, and other the official assignee for the time being of the estate and effects of the said Abraham Henry Chambers the elder, and Abraham Henry Chambers the younger, also for the survivor of them the said Richard Groom and John Richardson, his executors and administrators, and the said James Foster Groom, or other the official assignee for the time being of the same estate and effects, to do and execute all such acts, deeds, matters, and things, as they or any of them may deem necessary or expedient for carrying the arrangement in the said recited agreement set forth, into full and complete effect, at such times and in such manner, in all things as they or any of them may in their or his discretion think fit; and in particular to do all such acts, matters, and things, as they or any of them may deem necessary or expedient for obtaining the sanction and

authority of the Court of Review, or of the Lord High Chancellor of England, or of the Lords Commissioners of the Great Seal of England, that the sums of £23,000 and £400, in the said recited agreement respectively mentioned (making together the sum of £23,4000), shall be paid out of the estate and effects of the said Abraham Henry Chambers the elder, and Abraham Henry Chambers the younger, or of one of them, and be applied as and in manner in the same agreement mentioned or referred to: and further, that he and she, his and her executors, administrators, and assigns, shall and will from time to time, and at all times hereafter, at the request of the said Richard Groom, and John Richardson, and James Foster Groom, and other the official assignee for the time being of the estate and effects of the said Abraham Henry Chambers the elder, and Abraham Henry Chambers the younger, or of any of them, their or any of their executors or administrators, but at the costs and charges of the estate and effects of the said Abraham Henry Chambers the elder, and Abraham Henry Chambers the younger, or of one of them, make, do, and execute all such acts, deeds, matters, and things, as may be reasonably required for giving full and complete effect to the said recited agreement and the several provisions thereof: Provided always, and it is hereby declared and agreed by and between the several persons, parties hereto, that it shall be lawful for the said Richard Groom, John Richardson, and James Foster Groom, also for the said Richard Groom, and John Richardson, and other the official assignee for the time being of the estate and effects of the said Abraham Henry Chambers the elder, and Abraham Henry Chambers the younger, also for the survivor of them the said Richard Groom and John Richardson, and the said James Foster Groom, or other the official assignee for the time being as aforesaid, to consent and agree to, and to carry into effect, in manner aforesaid, any modification or alteration of the said recited agreement, or any additional or substitutionary provisions relating to the premises which shall not involve the payment out of, or abstract from, the estate and effects of the said Abraham Henry Chambers the elder, and Abraham Henry Chambers the younger, or either of them, of any greater sum, or property of greater value, than the said sum of £23,400; and each of them the said several persons, parties hereto of the first part, doth hereby nominate, constitute, and appoint the said Richard Groom, John Richardson, and James Foster Groom, and each two of them, his and her lawful attorneys irrevocable for him and her, and in his and her name, and on his and her behalf, to sign, present, and prosecute any petition or petitions to the said Court of Review, or to the said Lord Chancellor, or Lords Commissioners of the Great Seal for the time being, or consent to any order upon any such petition that they, or any two of them, may deem necessary or expedient for carrying the provisions of the said recited agreement into effect, or otherwise in relation to the premises: Provided always, and it is hereby expressly stipulated, declared, and agreed, that nothing herein contained shall subject or make liable any creditor, party hereto of the first part, to any greater loss on account of the payment of the said sum of £23,400 out of the estate and effects of the said Abraham Henry Chambers the elder, and Abraham Henry Chambers the younger, or of one of them, than such creditor would have been subject or liable to in case all the creditors of the said Abraham Henry Chambers the elder, and Abraham Henry Chambers the younger, or of either of them, entitled to prove under the said commission of bankrupt, had executed these presents as parties hereto of the first part, and such payment of the said sum of £22,400 had been made: Provided, that in case the said Richard Groom, and John Richardson, and James Foster Groom, or the survivors of them, shall in their discretion consider that, by reason of such a number of the creditors of the said Abraham Henry Chambers the elder, and Abraham Henry Chambers the younger, as they shall deem sufficient, not executing these presents, or otherwise, the pro-

visions of the said recited agreement cannot be carried into effect, and that it will be expedient to revoke these presents, and the stipulations herein contained, it shall be lawful for them so to do, at any time, by any deed, to be indorsed on these presents, and to be executed by them on or before the 18th day of November, which will be in the year 1836: Provided also, that in case the said Richard Groom, John Richardson, and James Foster Groom, or the survivors of them, shall, before the said 18th day of November, 1836, in their discretion deem it expedient so to do, it shall be lawful for them by deed, to be indorsed on these presents at any time, to extinguish the power of revocation hereinbefore contained."

NEGOTIATION OF FOREIGN LOANS.

THE introduction of loans for France and Turkey have not taken the public by surprise, the requirements of the two governments, in a financial point of view, being well understood. The sum to be raised on behalf of France is £10,000,000, and that for Turkey £2,700,000.* Prussia is also proposing to bring out a loan for £5,000,000; Austria has opened subscriptions for a similar amount; and Sardinia, to supply her necessities, will, if possible, raise about £2,000,000. Here we have an aggregate of £25,000,000, the supply of which, although extended over a considerable period, must more or less affect the general position of the money markets of Europe. The three latter loans will not be negotiated in this country. The French government having determined that "open" biddings should be made to supply the capital they desire, no single firm has been deputed to arrange the business. Messrs. Rothschild, Devaux, and other leading establishments, have received subscriptions, charging a commission upon the allotments. The popularity of the loan has been very great in Paris and the various departments; and the sums applied for have doubled in amount the original limit. It is therefore expected that the portion assignable for distribution in London will be small. This, in all probability, may not be regretted by those who do not require it as a permanent investment, the premium having not been supported. Messrs. Rothschild have arranged the contract for the Turkish loan, and the terms have, on the whole, been considered favourable. The late increase in the demand for money will thus at once be explained, if no other disturbing causes existed, and it still remains to be seen whether another epoch of pressure has not yet to be passed through. Fears are entertained in some quarters (and the evidence of late failures should not be disregarded) that we are

* The terms of these transactions will be found detailed in "Monetary Intelligence."

about to encounter fresh commercial reverses, the recent depression of trade, occasioned by the protracted negotiations in connexion with the Eastern question, having interfered with credit. We are not so apprehensive on this head, except in a partial degree; we look with greater concern to the evils likely to arise from the continuance of a war expenditure, which must have the effect of draining the resources of the several powers engaged in hostilities, and leading to that disarrangement of financial relations which is sure to beget the maintenance of a high rate of interest. Although we may not be intimately identified with the conclusion of the Austrian, the Prussian, or Sardinian loans, they will be certain to attract capital through one channel or another; and if the money markets of Vienna, Berlin, and Turin are unfavourably affected, we shall not, with our own direct and indirect engagements, wholly escape the recoil.

THE ENGLISH, SCOTTISH AND AUSTRALIAN CHARTERED BANK.

THE first ordinary meeting of this bank has taken place, and the report which was presented will be found in its proper place. The business of the establishment having only just commenced, little of importance could be elicited with regard to its probable success. The arrangements made for carrying out operations, forming branches and increasing general connexions, were stated to be of the most satisfactory kind, and in this respect the statements of the board were supported by several influential shareholders. A question, however, that created considerable discussion, and threatened at one period to disturb the harmony of the proceedings, was the amount charged for directors' remuneration. This, it transpired, was at the rate of £3,000 a-year; and when the announcement was made it evidently took the shareholders by surprise. As the accounts came to be further probed, it appeared that the preliminary expenses were large, while the outfit of officers, &c., likewise exhibited more than ordinary cost. These were unpleasant revelations, and they produced some severe comments. The explanations afforded relative to the latter points were accepted with good grace by the majority, viz., that the legal expenses incurred, and that the staff dispatched, to the colonies had occasioned the excess; but the great question of directors' salaries remains to be settled. The shareholders urged, and very properly, that the amount appropriated was too great, especially in the early stage of business; and not-

withstanding the board pleaded the deed of settlement and the arduous ordeal attending the organisation of the bank as their justification, an almost unanimous expression of opinion was uttered against the continuance of the allowance. No specific resolution was adopted on the occasion; but the directors, ascertaining the feeling of the meeting, promised to give the subject their mature consideration. We have no doubt that the opinion evoked will have the desired effect, and that it will be followed by some reduction in the amount of remuneration. A voluntary sacrifice, such as this, will do the directors credit; the exercise of a well-regulated economy being one of the chief points which should enlist their attention in promoting the prosperity of the institution with which they are connected. If it shall get mooted abroad that the principal aim of the members taking the lead in the management of the bank is to secure themselves large allowances, without proper regard to the interests of the shareholders, it will have a damaging effect; and, although we can reasonably believe that the time of the gentlemen composing the board is valuable, we have yet to learn that such a consideration is to outweigh all others in the estimates of expenditure. When the bank is fairly afloat, and when the shareholders shall be receiving a dividend, there can be no question that a liberal remuneration will be awarded. Experience in other cases teaches us that no niggardly spirit is evinced in such matters. Meanwhile, however, it will be as well to check any improvident outlay, since it cannot fail to interfere with the popularity of the establishment, and to decrease the confidence reposed in its administration. In making these remarks, it is fair to the directors to state that they met the objections raised in a becoming spirit, and manifested a desire to furnish whatever information was required.

THE WAR BUDGET.

We have already alluded, in the previous pages of the *Bankers' Magazine*, to the measures adopted by the Government, through the Chancellor of the Exchequer, to meet the increased expenditure of the country occasioned by the preparations for war with Russia. In accordance, however, with our usual custom, we have prepared for reference an abstract of the speech delivered by Mr. Gladstone on the 6th of March in the House of Commons, when he detailed the various resources from whence it is proposed to derive the means to satisfy immediate contingencies.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer, in introducing the important question of the "financial state of the country," premised that, with refer-

ence to the gravity of the circumstances in which we were placed, it had been the opinion of the Government that they would best discharge their duty by submitting, at that unusually early period of the session, the financial statement for the year, and the measures they thought requisite to be adopted to meet the exigencies, which must make a serious addition to the public burdens. He then proceeded to state the actual position of the revenue and expenditure. The sums at which he had last year estimated the produce of the different sources of revenue, and the actual receipts, were, in round numbers, as follows :—

			Estimates.		Annual Receipts.
Customs	..	..	£20,680,000	....	£20,600,000
Excise	..	..	14,640,000	....	15,170,000
Stamps	..	..	6,700,000	....	6,960,000
Taxes	..	..	3,250,000	....	3,178,000
Income-tax	..	..	5,550,000	....	5,700,000
Post-office	..	..	900,000	....	1,042,000
Crown lands	..	..	390,000	....	391,000
Miscellaneous	..	..	320,000	....	503,000
Old stores	..	..	460,000	....	481,000

The total amount of revenue for the year, as estimated, including saving by reduction and conversion of debt, was £52,990,000, whereas the actual receipts produced £54,025,000, showing an improvement, or excess over the estimates, of £1,035,000. On the other hand, the expenditure for which the house provided last session was estimated at £52,183,000; but the actual expenditure, though swelled by charges for military operations, was but £51,171,000; so that, while the income of the country was £1,035,000 more than the estimates, the expenditure was £1,012,000 less. Mr. Gladstone then detailed the results of the measures of last year for the remission of duties, and of those for the extension and augmentation of taxes. He had calculated the net produce of the Irish income-tax for the year at £460,000, and the result had been an excess of £20,000, or about £480,000. The extension of the tax downward, in Great Britain, to incomes of £100 a-year, would, he expected, yield to the exchequer at least as much as he had estimated, namely, £250,000. The extension of the spirit duty in Scotland, which he had calculated would produce £278,000, had yielded only £209,000, but the apparent diminution was explained by the decreased intemperance of the people, and there was not so much as the breath of a suspicion of any revival of illicit distillation. The result of the augmentation of the spirit-duty in Ireland had been altogether satisfactory, the amount for which he had taken credit having been £198,000, whereas the actual amount was not less than £213,000. With respect to the succession-duty, so far as regarded the ultimate probable yield, he saw no reason to depart from his conjectural estimate; but certain relaxations would almost overtake the actual receipts. He did not expect to realise more than £500,000 from this tax in the next year; and he had every reason to believe that the florid calculations of those who had predicted that the tax would realize from £3,000,000 to £5,000,000, were visionary. The whole of the facts combined together

proved, he said, that the finances of the country stood upon a sound and solid foundation.

The future, however, must be governed by an altered state of circumstances, and, making moderate allowances, he submitted the following estimate of the probable revenue in the year 1854-5 :—

Customs	£20,175,000
Excise	14,595,000
Stamps	7,090,000
Taxes	3,015,000
Income-Tax	6,275,000
Post Office	1,200,000
Crown Lands	259,000
Old Stores	420,000
Miscellaneous	320,000
	£53,349,000

The expenditure for the year was less satisfactory. The charge for the funded debt had, indeed, been reduced from £27,570,000 to £27,000,000, a difference of £570,000 in favour of the country, which was in part due to the act of 1844, and in part to the measure of last session for paying off certain minor and South Sea stocks. The charges for 1854-5 would stand thus :—

Funded Debt	£27,000,000
Unfunded Debt	546,000
Consolidated Fund	2,460,000
Army	6,857,000
Navy	7,488,000
Ordnance	3,846,000
Commissariat	645,000
Miscellaneous	4,775,000
Militia	530,000
Packet Service	792,000

To the foregoing must be added a provision for the extraordinary military expenditure connected with the expedition to the East. This sum, he remarked, must necessarily be indefinite. It was proposed to calculate the vote for this extraordinary military service at the rate of £50 per head for 25,000 men, or £1,250,000. Adding this amount to the other estimated charges, the total expenditure would be £56,189,000, and the estimated revenue being only £53,349,000, there would be a deficiency of revenue in 1854-55 of no less than £2,840,000. This sum, however, would not represent the whole cost of the war; but for this event, there would be a surplus of £1,166,000, and, with the saving accruing on the funded debt of £500,000, we should have had a fund for a further remission of taxation of £1,666,000. The total difference of the account against the exchequer, including the surplus, was no less than £4,506,000. We had, therefore, an actual deficiency to provide for amounting to £2,840,000 a-year. How was this deficiency to be made up? He trusted not by interfering with the reduction of taxation

already made. The net amount of loss to the exchequer by the remission of taxes in 1853 was £1,002,000, which might be saved by retracing our steps. He hoped the committee would support the government in standing by the different branches of the revenue as they existed; they did not propose, in the face of the figures he had stated, and of the circumstances of the country, to part with any of the branches of the public revenue; and, if so, and if money must be had, would it be right to increase the rates of duty of Customs and Excise, or to replace the duties abolished? The answer of the committee would, he hoped, be, like that of the government, in the negative. He could not hold out any reasonable expectation that, if the present troubles were prolonged for years, a permanent continuance of the relief from taxation already gained could be secured; all he could say was, that an increase of indirect taxation should be the last resource. Then, was it just to make a resolute endeavour to bear this charge ourselves, or was it right to cast part of the burden upon posterity? It might be that the demand now made would be but the first of a series of demands; and it was impossible for the house or the country to give an absolute pledge that the expenses of the war should be borne by the present generation; but it was possible that, as long as the burdens were bearable, and the supplies could be raised within the year, so long they could resolve not to have recourse to the money-market.

There were economical reasons and there were moral reasons, that should fasten the House to the sound policy of raising the supplies within the year, instead of resorting to what had been termed "a wholesale and systematic deception of the people"—the raising of funds for the war by loans. There could not be a doubt, therefore, of the course the government intended to propose. Referring to what he had observed last year of the income-tax, that it was a great engine of taxation—an engine which might be used to the extent of a great part of the demands of any war—the government proposed, he said, to repair the deficiency of £2,840,000, and to provide a moderate margin besides, by increasing the income-tax by one-half, levying the whole addition for and in respect of the first moiety of the year, that was, to double the tax for the half-year. The fiscal result of the proposition would be this: he had taken the amount of the income-tax for 1854-55 at £6,275,000; a moiety of that sum was £3,137,000; but, in the case of the income-tax, the cost of collection diminished in proportion as the amount increased, and he took the real moiety at £3,307,000, which would make the whole produce of the income-tax £9,582,000. The aggregate income for 1854-5 would then amount to £56,656,000; and the expenditure being estimated at £56,189,000, a small surplus would be left of £467,000. Mr. Gladstone then explained a financial change proposed by the government, interesting, he said, to the commercial community, relating to stamps on bills of exchange, the law respecting which was in a most unsatisfactory state. We charged bills of exchange drawn at home, and exempted bills drawn abroad, contrary to the policy of France, where the stamps were uniform, whether the bills were home-drawn or foreign-drawn.

Moreover, there was reason to believe that the law was evaded, and, while the Exchequer was defrauded, the ultimate holder of a bill found it worthless. It was therefore proposed to abolish the distinction between home and foreign-drawn bills, making them pay the same rate of tax—namely, 3*d.* for each £25, or 1*s.* for each £100, on short bills, and 4*d.* per £25, or 1*s.* 4*d.* per £100, on long bills, up to £5,000; the stamps to be not impressed, but adhesive. He did not expect that the change could take effect until the 5th of July; the amount which this duty would produce he calculated at £434,000, against £555,000, the yield of the present duty. He had no doubt, however, that the effect of the change would be to throw a good deal of capital into action which had hitherto been dormant, and he estimated that the ultimate revenue would be within £11,000 of the present revenue. It was his intention, he said, to lay on the table a resolution for a vote of £1,750,000 for an issue of exchequer-bills. The balances in the exchequer, he observed, were low at present. They would have gone on well, however, had there been no extraordinary demand. The additions to the revenue would not be realized before Christmas, whereas a large portion of the expenditure must be provided for in the next quarter; and he asked for permission to make this moderate issue of exchequer-bills, not thinking it would be necessary to exercise the permission to its full extent; but, if it should be, the unfounded debt would only stand at present as it stood twelve months ago, when its amount was £17,750,000, and it was now £16,000,000. The exchequer-bills were connected with the abortive operation of last year upon the public debt; the amount of the new securities taken under that measure was about £3,500,000, so that £8,000,000 had been or would be presented for payment, and the public balances had been, and would be, employed to pay off these stocks, together with the liquidation of debt charged upon the land revenues of the Crown. In consequence of this drain on the public balances, a less sum had been applied than would otherwise have been applied to the sinking fund; but the total saving from the measure had been £130,000. The summary of the whole was, that the income-tax for the first half-year would be doubled for and in respect of the year 1854-55; and that a provision would be made for the interval by an issue of exchequer-bills to the extent of £1,750,000, which, if issued, would be paid out of the growing produce of the revenue. He concluded by moving the vote above mentioned.

In the subsequent discussion the whole financial operations of the last session were reviewed, together with other collateral topics, and the resolution was eventually agreed to.

CLASS BANKS.

A SHORT time since a letter appeared in the *Montreal Herald*, signed by "A Manufacturer," complaining that there was "a great want of capital in Canada; the interests of manufacturers and farmers ap-

pearing to be entirely neglected." Upon this ground the "Manufacturer" urged the necessity of the formation of a new bank, to be called the "Manufacturers' Bank," in which the interests of his class should receive particular attention. The editor of the paper, in a leading article, so far endorsed the statements of the "Manufacturer" as to admit that there was a great want of banking accommodation in the colony; without, however, giving any opinion as to one class being more favoured or neglected than another, or without supporting the suggested scheme of the "Manufacturer."

Now, as this project involves the principle of a class bank, it may be interesting to inquire generally how far class banks are likely to be sound and useful in their working in Canada or elsewhere. The importance of the subject, indeed, is far from being local to Canada, although the immediate suggestion of it arises from the case just referred to. A few years ago there was rather a mania in this country for the formation of joint-stock companies, for various objects, formed upon a class basis, or, at least, appealing to class or sectarian sympathies. In life and fire insurance companies this feature was prominent. Thus, for instance, it was thought, and supposed to be ascertained by the statistics of life, that the lives of the clergy of all denominations presented a better average than the general body of life insurers, on account of the greater regularity and temperance of clergymen. It was overlooked, or not ascertained, at that stage of the induction of life assurance practice that large bodies of the clergy are very ineligible lives: the young curates, for instance, or the married ones with large families, in towns, overworked and underfed; again, Roman Catholic priests, in large cities, are often carried off by fever, to which they are very subject, from fasting and the severe discipline of their church rules.

In Leeds and Manchester, during the last visitation of the cholera, numerous deaths occurred among the priests, from their systems being open to infection by depression of the bodily strength from want of adequate nourishment, added to the depression of mind incident to the melancholy scenes in which they were engaged. On the other hand, the lives of our higher clergy are so luxurious and indolent, they become deteriorated by plethora and want of exercise, as much as those of their poorer brethren are deteriorated by inanition.

Hence, in these latter days, a conviction is arrived at that, although for limited periods of time the lives of particular classes may be found to present better results than those of the insuring classes generally, still, in the long run, they are found to be subject to risks arising from peculiar causes of a morbid or accidental character, which make them a more insecure basis for the stability of a public company than it would have if resting on the average conditions of humanity.

The foregoing remarks may appear somewhat irrelevant to banking; but they have an indirect bearing upon the subject, as suggesting the inquiry whether, in the case of banking and all other companies, those are not the soundest which rest upon the broad basis of the interests of all classes, rather than on those of any one or two, however numerous

or respectable. In regard to banks—as a little experience is better than much theory—we have the well-known case of the Northern and Central Bank to guide us as to the working of a class bank. Nominally it was not an establishment of this kind, but it was essentially so in its management, almost all the directors being manufacturers. It was, therefore, clearly a class bank—a manufacturers' bank. Now, what was the main feature of its business that led to its ultimate ruin? A large portion of its paid-up capital was advanced to the directors upon their private accounts. The only object, indeed, which most of them had in getting a seat at the board was to command large advances to themselves. The business was left to itself, or to the subordinate officers; and, naturally, after a short run of seeming prosperity, the bank came to the ground with a fearful crash.

That such a career is the necessary tendency of a class bank, is manifest upon a little reflection. It is an acknowledged principle of good banking, that neither the capital of a bank nor its deposits should be advanced upon the security of plant or buildings. Now, let a manufacturers' bank be formed, and its board be composed of manufacturers, and nothing is more certain than that, before long, the above sound principle will be infringed; gradually at first, and tenderly, as if only for a time, and for a particular instance, but not the less surely at last, to the full extent of the power of the bank. Each director will consider himself ill used if he does not get the same amount of accommodation as his neighbour. Small advances for temporary periods will first be asked for and obtained; some one gets a step further, and his brother directors follow, until, as in the case of the Northern and Central Bank, every one of them is deep in the books of the bank. This tendency of class interest is obvious and uncontrollable, except when counteracted by the presence of other interests. In speaking of class interests we speak of them generally, and not exclusively in regard to manufacturers. The tendency of the management of all class banks is unduly to advance their funds upon securities representing fixed capital of one kind or another, instead of upon those arising out of transactions in floating capital, which are the only really legitimate banking securities.

But suppose a board to be so well constituted, although of a particular class, that no advances of an illegitimate character are made, it will be difficult to persuade the outside public that such is the real state of the case. People will say, naturally enough, that the interests of the directors are to get heavy advances for themselves; and a general, although erroneous, impression will spread that the bank is in the hands of a clique representing a single class interest, and is not deserving, therefore, of the confidence of the general public. A bank of this description will, for the reason mentioned, be more subject to runs and panics among its creditors than a bank based upon general support, and with a board of directors of various stations and pursuits.

Another objection to class banks is, that they are so dependent for success upon one or two "interests," that they are invariably depressed to a dangerous degree whenever those particular interests are under a cloud. If they are known to be exclusively or closely identified with

distressed classes, it is impossible for them to escape the suspicion that they share the danger and difficulty in an aggravated form. Thus much as to class banks generally!

In regard to Canada, a class bank would, it is thought, be really more out of place there than in the mother-country; for in the colony it can scarcely be said that there is any one great interest—certainly not a great manufacturing interest—either in the upper or lower province. A class bank in Canada, therefore, would have a very slender foundation to rest upon. But although there is not any one great predominating class or interest in the colony, its combined interests—agricultural, commercial, manufacturing, and shipping—furnish a noble basis for joint-stock banks on a large scale. Its progress, indeed, has of late years begun to rival that even of its great neighbour the American Republic; and the formation of the Grand Trunk Railway will, in all probability, still further and faster increase its prosperity. While, therefore, it is necessary to warn our Canadian friends against the fatal error of establishing a bank upon a narrow class basis, great success would, no doubt, attend the augmentation of banking establishments resting on the only safe foundation—a constituency representing every class of the community.

THE SAVINGS' BANK QUESTION.

It is noticed that Mr. Gladstone has stated in Parliament, that he is not about at present to introduce the promised new Savings' Bank Bill. After what occurred last session, the public were led to expect that a modification of the law would now be made, and the statement of the Chancellor of the Exchequer will therefore be regarded with some dissatisfaction. The reason assigned for the delay—that the savings' bank question is so mixed up with government financial affairs—is one that cannot be altogether accepted as conclusive for deferring the proposed measure. On the contrary, should no improvement be made on the existing law, the unsatisfactory state in which it remains, may have the effect of reducing the savings' bank balance in the hands of the government, and help a little to accelerate the derangement which Mr. Gladstone seems so anxious to avoid.

The savings' bank system has always been supported very much by the idea generally entertained, that the depositor possessed government security; but since it has been discovered that no such guarantee exists, a very doubtful feeling has sprung up, injurious to the working of the system, and the growth of these deposits in general. This does not extend so much to those districts where, from the mode of management and the well-known and established character of the superintendents and officials, no doubt is entertained on the subject; but such a feeling prevails in many places, and especially in those not distant from a locality where a case of failure and spoliation has occurred. There can be no good reason why such a feeling should be allowed to

exist for a single day. On the score of the danger of financial loss and embarrassment—that should be rather looked upon as a reason for, than against, an immediate improvement of the law.

Interest is rising, and on the eve of a war of the magnitude now impending, a continued and permanent improvement may reasonably be anticipated. This will, of course, have the effect of withdrawing deposits from savings' banks, as well as from other banks, for more profitable investments, and cause a sale of stock by the commissioners to meet the drafts upon them, very unfavourable, at present prices, for the government savings' bank account. And if to this cause be added the feeling of insecurity gradually gaining ground, and which is likely to increase when it is known that the government intend to do nothing this year towards putting the law on a better footing, the drain may become more serious. No doubt the temptation of higher interest and better returns will, under any system, entice away many deposits; but still, were it known that the security afforded was perfectly undoubted, because founded on the guarantee of government, it would tend greatly to promote the permanency of the investments. People are always willing to accept a smaller rate of interest on a first-class security than when there is any risk associated with the transaction. It does look as if some importance were attached to the permanency of savings' bank deposits, when the inducement of a privilege of having a vote in the representation, by a lengthened connection with the savings' bank, is introduced as a feature in Lord John Russell's Reform Bill. It is, therefore, hardly right that there should now be any delay in improving the system and removing those objections which interfere with its progress. Other and weightier questions certainly claim the principal attention of the government at this moment; but as this is a measure much called for, and one which would rather assist than retard their free action, there seems little ground for the proposed postponement.

Whatever may be otherwise said against a modification of the law, it must be admitted that the greater the extension of the savings' bank system the better will be the moral feeling of the country, and the greater chance will exist of the government being supported by a large number interested in its stability. To be really effectual, the system should be placed on such a foundation as to admit of its extension into every district of the country, so that each small town and village may have its savings' bank co-operating with the spread of education and other philanthropic objects considered essential for elevating the masses.

ALTERATION OF BANKING HOURS.

WE noticed in the *Bankers' Magazine* of last month that the directors of the Bank of England had, for the present, abandoned the intention of altering the hours of business; and the annexed letter, addressed by the Governor to the Chairman of the Committee of Private Bankers, will explain the grounds upon which the proposed change was founded. The

question, as it now stands, entirely exonerates the Directors of the Bank of England from any vacillation in their proceedings, the private bankers themselves being to blame for the failure of a suggestion which they were the first to originate and the first to abandon. It is understood that the joint-stock banks would have willingly acquiesced in the arrangement for shortening the hours of labour.

“Bank of England, Feb. 23.

“DEAR SIR,—The bank are about to advertise their withdrawal of the notice issued on the 19th of January, ‘That from the 1st of March the business of this establishment would commence at 10 o’clock instead of 9;’ and I feel bound to record in this communication to you the circumstances under which they rescind a measure originating in your suggestion. When you first spoke to me of ‘opening at 10 o’clock,’ as a change for which the private bankers had been, with few exceptions, long desirous, the subject was new to me, although it had been brought before my predecessor in office two or three years since; but I made immediate inquiry of the chief officers of the bank, and found, by their reports, that the proposed change could be effected without inconvenience to the bank or to its customers, and that the attendance of the clerks of the establishment might be consequently deferred from 9 to half-past 9. I learnt also, from all the inquiries I was able to make, that the mercantile community generally would cordially approve the postponement for an hour of the presentation of bills, now often most inconveniently left for acceptance as early as 9 o’clock, when, owing to the altered habits of the times and their distant residence, they have not reached their offices.

After interviews with members of the three banking firms you had mentioned to me as dissenting from the proposed change, which tended to diminish still further the amount of objection, I brought the entire question before the Court of Directors, who unanimously adopted the proposition for a change of hour, in harmony, as they fully believed, with the wishes of the private bankers generally—unobjectionable upon its own merits to the joint-stock banks—acceptable, as they hoped, to the mercantile community—and conducive, as they knew, to the convenience and comfort of that most trustworthy, laborious, and deserving class, the clerks of bankers and merchants.

On the 7th of February you placed in the hands of the chief cashier the following memorandum:—

‘We, the undersigned bankers, having learnt from the public announcement of the Bank of England, that it is their intention to open their establishment at 10 o’clock instead of 9, after the 1st of March next, beg to express our strong opinion of the great inconvenience that would result from such a measure to the transaction of business, and our earnest hope that they will not carry the same into effect.

BARCLAY, BEVAN, TRITTON, and Co.
PRESCOTT, GROTE, and Co.
GLYN, MILLS, and Co.
JONES LOYD and Co.
BARNETT, HOARE, and Co.
DIMSDALE, DREWETT, and Co.
HANKEY and Co.
ROBARTS, CURTIS, and Co.’

London, Feb. 7, 1854.

Surprised as I naturally was at so unexpected a communication, I felt bound not only to require an explanation from yourself, but to investigate still further the nature and extent of the ‘great inconvenience which would result from such a measure.’

Your explanation has been brief and frank—viz., that your brother bankers have changed their minds; while our further investigation has only confirmed the Court in their opinion that, as regarded the business of this establishment, the partial inconvenience which might result to a few individuals would be far outweighed by the general advantage in the economy of time that would result from the alteration. As, however, the Bank have acted in this matter in compliance, as they supposed, with the requisition of those bankers of whom they considered you the representative, and you now withdraw that requisition, the Bank withdraw their public notice; for they are most anxious that neither the benefit which would arise from the general adoption of this measure be defeated by its partial introduction, nor that they appear to force its adoption on the private bankers in a manner at variance with the friendly relations which it is their anxious desire to maintain.

I have merely to add, in conclusion, that, should the private bankers at any time see cause to modify their present objections to the abridgment of the hours of business, the Bank will gladly entertain any proposition they may offer.

I remain, dear sir, your faithful servant,
John Masterman, Esq., M.P. J. G. HUBBARD, Governor."

THE CLEARING-HOUSE.

THE question of the admission of the joint-stock banks to the privileges of the clearing-house continues to occupy attention, and it has been announced that the Committee of Private Bankers, on the 9th of March, negatived by a majority of 13 to 10 a proposition to effect that object. As in June last only two voted in favour of the concession, it is evident that the question is rapidly hastening to the long-desired solution that would be most creditable to the bankers and advantageous to the public. At a general meeting of the Society of Merchants trading to the Continent, Mr. Grant, of the firm of Bell and Grant, in the chair, the expediency of adopting the measure recently contemplated by the Bank of England, of altering their hour of commencing business, was taken into consideration, as well as the question of the admission of joint-stock banks to the clearing-house, and the following resolutions were adopted:—

"That the altered habits of the merchants and traders of London render the presentation of bills for payment before 10 o'clock very inconvenient.

That the London joint-stock banks having become firmly established, and a large proportion of the banking business being now transacted through their medium, the want of a general clearance among the bankers in London is attended with much inconvenience and great risk.

That a committee of five members be now named to confer with the Committee of Bankers, with a view to obtaining the bankers' assent to the proposal of the Bank of England not to commence payments over the counter earlier than 10 o'clock, and to the establishment of a general clearance between the private and joint-stock bankers of London."

AMERICAN BANKING.

It would appear that some uneasiness (says the *Morning Chronicle*) is beginning to manifest itself in America regarding the rapidly increasing number of banking establishments more or less throughout the Union, but particularly in the state of New York. Efforts are, however, it is said, about to be made by the legislature of the latter state to check their formation. It is doubtful, however, if the other states of the Union will be induced to adopt a similarly wise precaution. In too many instances they are promoted by leading speculators of the day, for some ulterior view of their own—such as obtaining an expansion of credit, and free access to discount accommodation, &c. The banks already established in the country greatly exceed the number necessary to give stability to trade and commercial credit. Any increase in their number, therefore, must necessarily engender a spirit of speculation more reckless and daring than is yet indulged in, and produce, in time, deplorable results alike to the shareholders, the mercantile interest, and the public in general.

The banks, by enlarging their sphere of action beyond prudent bounds, not only endanger the safety of the subscribers, but also that of the customers. Every class of security finds a ready means, from one or other, of being made the medium of accommodation and increased speculation. The facility they give for this description of business rapidly increases the number of worthless projects of the most wild and dangerous character, and speculation in time becomes rampant. A fictitious appearance of prosperity is imparted to the trading interests of the country, which continues for a time uninterrupted, and includes within its influence the whole community, in some shape or other. A sudden change, however, takes place; money becomes scarce and dear, and discounts difficult. Commercial credit is shaken, and, having only the banks to fall back upon, soon bespeaks the truly artificial character of its former stability. The banks contract their accommodation, seek to realise the securities they hold, and a panic soon sets in, which brings the catastrophe, which has, over and over again, taken place in Australia, to its great discredit and the injury of this country.

The prosperity of the United States is never more to be dreaded than when it appears most triumphant; for it is raised upon a hollow system of credit and paper, which cannot long withstand the shocks and convulsions periodically occurring. A warning voice may well be raised against a system which in the past has proved to be so bad and perilous, in the present is fraught, perhaps, with no less danger, and in the future may prove still more pernicious. The prospect of a war between England and Russia has given rise to the expectation that it will greatly enlarge the trade between this country and America. Without entering upon an analysis of the arguments brought forward in support of this supposition, or any inquiry into what is likely to arise from enlarged hostilities in the East, it may prove more serviceable to direct attention to the danger that threatens both America and this country from any further increase of its banking institutions.

Already their number exceeds the absolute wants of legitimate trade; any expansion of the commerce of the United States, it is to be feared, will be assuredly attended with the formation of new banks.

An American contemporary remarks on the subject :—

“The only way to prevent this evil continuing is to restrict the class of securities received at the banking department; but efforts will, no doubt, be made during the present session of the assembly to add to the list of securities receivable for banking purposes. In other states—north, west, and south—the legislatures are besieged with applications for bank charters under the old system. The increase of banks increases individual credit. All the institutions, both old and new, are competing for business; and if they cannot get enough good, they will take the best they can get. The great point arrived at by the banks is dividends, and that is all the stockholders care about. It requires a great deal of good luck to accumulate profits enough to squeeze out even an ordinary rate of dividend. With the extravagance practised in the management of these institutions, the delinquencies, defalcations, or, as some call them, the ‘conspiracies,’ continually going on inside of these granite and brown stone palaces, the bad debts, which are almost of daily occurrence, require large profits to overcome and leave anything for the stockholders. At least 5 per cent. of the capital of banks generally is consumed in this way, independent of the dividends, which must range from 6 to 8 per cent. to satisfy those who hold stock. To earn 12 per cent. is a very difficult matter, where there are so many competing for business, and bank stocks for investment have actually materially depreciated in value. They may go along smoothly enough for a time, and be fortunate enough to declare moderate dividends; but the period must come when the very evils they have produced will react disastrously upon themselves. The banks in all parts of the country are continually engaged in expanding credits. It is for their interests to encourage speculation, to enlarge their lines of discount, and they lead individuals into operations by the facilities furnished, who otherwise would have confined themselves to more limited, to more legitimate transactions. If the legislatures of every state in the Union would, for a time at least, stop creating these institutions, and let the natural business of the country accumulate, so as to be more on a par with the banking capital already in existence, we should, perhaps, escape wholly or in part those disasters which now threaten on all sides.”

COMMUTATION OF GOVERNMENT STOCKS.

A RETURN has been printed of the several amounts of stock outstanding at the time of passing the Act 16 Vict., cap. 23, in May last, for paying off the South Sea and other public minor stocks. The several amounts are as under :—

				Amount Commuted.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
South Sea Stock	3,662,784	8	6½	Nil.		
Old South Sea Annuities	2,759,778	9	10	739,233	1	3
New South Sea Annuities	2,005,884	9	5	463,606	14	6
Three per Cent. Annuities, 1751	463,800	0	0	94,377	4	11
Three per Cent. Annuities, 1726	672,492	18	7	196,221	7	11
Three per Cent. Consols	369,778,963	12	9½	1,129,190	4	2
Three per Cent. Reduced	116,311,518	19	2	433,796	13	7
Exchequer Bills	17,732,200	0	0	408,900	0	0
Total	£513,387,422	18	4	£3,465,325	6	4

The new stocks, into which the above amounts were converted, are as follows:—

	3½ per Cents.			3½ per Cents.			Exchequer Bonds.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£		
South Sea Stock	Nil.			Nil.			Nil.		
Old South Sea Annuities..	41,384	19	10	694,548	1	5	3,300		
New South Sea Annuities .	57,524	9	3	406,082	5	3	Nil.		
3 per Cent. Annuities, 1751	4,489	7	4	87,987	17	7	1,900		
3 per Cent. Annuities, 1726	12,161	7	3	199,628	7	8	Nil.		
3 per Cent. Consols	111,428	12	0	1,090,787	15	2	2,500		
3 per Cent. Reduced	31,852	8	5	482,836	9	0	1,700		
Exchequer Bills	Nil.			Nil.			408,900		
Totals	£258,841	4	1	£2,911,870	16	1	£418,300		

The payments made in liquidation of any part of the residue of such old stock out of the Consolidated Fund in money, are as follows:—

South Sea Stock	£3,662,784	8	6
New South Sea Annuities	1,540,676	1	1
Three per Cent. Annuities, 1751	369,026	4	6
Three per Cent. Annuities, 1726	476,271	10	8
Total	£6,048,758	4	9

The amount of residue of stock still outstanding is £2,040,545 7s. 8d. of Old South Sea Annuities.

MERCANTILE SUSPENSIONS.

THE increased demand for money has interfered with the stability of credit in commercial circles, and the result is, that several failures have been announced during the month of March. We shall place them in the order which the several firms occupied in their respective departments.

Messrs. Benjamin Elkin & Sons, London, West Indian and Australian trade.

Messrs. P. Monteaux and Co., London and Paris exchange brokers.

Messrs. Dickson and Co., Glasgow, Australian trade.

Messrs. Gladstone, Bond, and Co., Manchester, general brokers.

Mr. Thomas MacGregor, London, woollen warehouseman.

Messrs. Warwick, Harrison, & Co., London, silk and shawl manufacturers.

In the case of Messrs. Elkin and Sons, the liabilities, it is stated, amounted to £140,000, the disaster being chiefly attributable to advances to correspondents in Demerara, and not to any losses in their Australian business. The nominal assets, it is reported, are ample, but their ultimate realisation will, it is feared, turn out unfavourable. The liabilities of Messrs. P. Monteaux and Co. reach £100,000, the assets being problematical. The difficulties of the Glasgow house are attributed to the heavy nature of their shipments to Melbourne and Sydney. With liabilities ranging from £200,000 to £300,000, it is presumed that the estate will not be able to pay a large dividend. Messrs. Gladstone, Bond, and Co., who have suspended for about £80,000, appear to have been largely compromised by a previous failure in Manchester. Mr. MacGregor and Messrs. Warwick, Harrison, and Co., have, it is stated, been mixed up in accommodation transactions, and the failure of the first for about £50,000 has brought down the second establishment, whose debts are estimated at £37,000. In these latter instances the estimates of dividends vary from 10s. to 15s. in the pound.

TRADE OF THE UNITED KINGDOM.*

RETURNS were issued from the Board of Trade on the 23rd of February showing the total of exports and imports during the past year as compared with 1852. The increase in the declared value of our exportations for the 12 months has been £15,982,240, while the increase of 1852 over the preceding year was £2,843,465. The following table exhibits the way in which this remarkable improvement has been diffused among the various branches of industry, and presents the singular fact of being virtually without an item on the adverse side, since the only instance of a diminution is that of wool, the exportation of which has been checked simply by the prosperity of our manufactures having caused a demand too great for it to be spared. The chief augmentation in the list is that under the head of metals, and the next is that of cotton manufactures, which in the preceding year had shown a decrease. Linen and silk manufactures likewise exhibit a great advance, but the most striking features of the return are those which indicate the continued effect of the Australian demand. Thus "haberdashery" (a designation including most kinds of outfit), which a few years ago was a comparatively insignificant item, figures now among the most important sums, and has advanced even within the twelve-month from £2,074,180 to £4,156,700. Hardwares, machinery, and leather show also a remarkable extension, while in beer and ale the

* This first return we were compelled to omit last month, owing to the lateness of its publication.

increase has been £534,755. Of course, in many of these totals the enlargement is partly due to the rise in prices which has been going on; but, making full allowance on that ground, the rapid progress of every branch of trade has been far beyond all former precedent:—

DECLARED VALUE OF EXPORTATIONS.

	1852.	1853.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
Alkali—viz., soda	396,196	474,048	77,852	—
Beer and ale	754,627	1,289,382	534,755	—
Butter	335,800	402,550	66,750	—
Candles	82,523	128,199	45,676	—
Cheese	57,519	119,406	61,887	—
Coals and culm	1,372,114	1,607,743	235,629	—
Cordage and cables	145,924	217,813	71,889	—
Cotton manufactures	23,223,432	25,813,931	2,590,499	—
Cotton yarn	6,654,655	6,895,454	240,799	—
Earthenware	1,151,897	1,337,265	185,568	—
Fish	350,396	456,398	106,002	—
Glass manufactures	378,827	518,451	139,624	—
Haberdashery and millinery	2,074,180	4,156,700	2,082,520	—
Hardware and cutlery	2,691,697	3,663,856	972,159	—
Leather	844,759	1,579,309	734,550	—
Linen manufactures	4,231,786	4,761,252	529,466	—
Linen yarn	1,140,565	1,149,103	8,538	—
Machinery	1,251,360	1,976,502	725,142	—
Metals	9,883,069	14,393,352	4,510,283	—
Oil and seeds	434,959	517,808	82,849	—
Painters' colours, &c.	249,130	325,427	76,297	—
Salt	223,976	272,267	48,291	—
Silk manufactures	1,156,305	1,594,553	438,248	—
Silk, thrown	194,524	239,902	45,378	—
Silk twist and yarn	201,037	210,457	9,420	—
Soap	241,921	288,295	46,374	—
Stationery	411,713	619,672	207,959	—
Sugar, refined	300,134	300,419	285	—
Wool, sheep or lambs'	778,967	422,072	—	356,895
Woollen manufactures	8,730,934	10,171,263	1,440,329	—
Woollen yarn	1,430,140	1,454,457	24,317	—
Total	71,375,066	87,357,306		

Of the above increase of £15,982,240, the sum of £423,377 took place during the month ending the 5th of January.

As regards imports, the chief point for notice in the comparison of the two years again consists in the increased consumption of all the staple articles of household economy. Looking at the stretch to which all kinds of home production have been brought by the stimulus of high prices, the growing extent of the demand for foreign supplies becomes every year more astonishing, and it is impossible to conjecture what would have the condition of the country if these importations had not been invited by free trade. In grain and flour the in-

crease has been very large, but perhaps hardly so great as was at one time thought would be necessary. Of all kinds of salted provisions the consumption has been striking, and cocoa, coffee, tea, and sugar have likewise been taken in greatly augmented quantities. The same is observable with regard to wines and spirits; and, indeed, dried fruits presents the only important item of decrease, the advance in price from the failure of the currant crops having induced general economy. In this case, however, as well as in that of wine, the advantages of English capital have been shown by the heavy importations which took place immediately upon the apprehended scarcity becoming known.

Subjoined are the quantities of provisions, &c., imported and taken for home consumption :—

	Imported.		Home Consumption.	
	1853.	1852.	1852.	1853.
Grain, wheat, quarters ..	3,060,268	4,949,314	3,074,200	4,951,313
Grain of other descriptions, quarters	2,110,184	2,400,683	2,122,859	2,400,683
Indian corn, quarters ..	1,471,277	1,552,934	1,479,891	1,552,934
Flour and meal, cwt. ..	3,866,720	4,662,939	3,891,197	4,662,948
Provisions. — Bacon, pork, lard, &c., cwt. ..	365,025	660,459	Free.	Free.
Butter and cheese, cwt. ..	574,955	803,176	569,532	781,532
Animals, No.	333,622	397,430	Free.	Free.
Eggs, No.	108,281,233	123,618,020	108,320,550	123,607,070
Cocoa, lb.	6,269,434	8,383,910	3,885,632	4,126,687
Coffee, British, lb: ..	42,523,968	38,279,452	27,727,856	28,149,482
Ditto, foreign, lb... ..	12,411,542	17,175,432	7,315,717	8,942,332
Total coffee ..	54,935,510	55,454,884	35,043,573	37,091,814
Sugar—				
West India, cwt. ..	3,402,551	2,830,769	3,564,703	3,061,985
Mauritius, cwt. ..	1,121,995	1,249,412	1,142,705	1,345,846
East India, cwt. ..	1,303,650	1,226,752	1,534,042	1,365,001
Foreign, cwt. ..	1,068,565	1,977,449	687,094	1,535,146
Total sugar ..	6,896,761	7,284,382	6,928,544	7,307,978
Tea, lb.	66,360,535	70,735,552	54,724,613	58,860,127
Rice, cwt.	987,813	1,505,118	575,387	797,039
Spirits, gallons	9,635,032	9,499,433	4,851,359	5,131,618
Wines, gallons	6,793,304	11,030,708	6,614,680	7,197,572
Opium, lb... ..	205,780	194,821	61,521	67,038
Tobacco, lb.	36,133,549	44,944,962	28,358,909	29,521,049
Fruits.—Currants, figs, and raisins, cwt.	734,863	765,012	625,966	472,681
Spices, lb.	8,403,972	7,295,915	4,105,828	4,095,983
Ditto, cwt... ..	22,708	13,678	3,875	3,746

The following are the comparative imports and exports of raw material, showing an increase in every article except cotton :—

	Imported.		Exported.	
	1852.	1853.	1852.	1853.
Flax, cwt.	132,273	269,822	—	—
Hemp, cwt.	1,081,220	1,262,843	—	—
Raw silk, lb.	5,832,551	6,480,724	703,320	433,872
Cotton, cwt.	8,301,629	7,990,329	998,967	1,326,230
Wool, lb.	91,692,864	117,185,172	11,266,939	11,707,002
Tallow, cwt.	1,049,703	1,178,370	—	—

Of silk manufactures the totals stand thus :—

	Imported.		Home Consumption.	
	1852.	1853.	1852.	1853.
Silk, manufactures of Europe, lb.	590,442	794,398	576,178	751,280
Ditto, of India, pieces ..	511,043	475,575	139,330	166,323

THE Board of Trade returns for the month ending the 5th of February were issued on the 3rd of March, and exemplify the effects of the approaching war in inducing a contraction of business, since they show for the first time for more than a year a falling off in the declared value of our exportations. The diminution, however, is only £368,748, and cannot be regarded as considerable, especially when taken in connexion with the fact that the corresponding month of last year, with which the comparison is made, was one of remarkable activity, and presented an increase of nearly a million and a half. Cotton manufactures, usually the first to be affected by any elements of disturbance, present the greatest falling off, although the alterations are sufficiently extensive to indicate that they do not arise from conditions merely influencing one or two departments of trade, but are the result of timely caution in all directions. The shipments to Australia have still been large, and it is these that have kept the list from exhibiting a more decided decline—haberdashery, hardware, and leather manufactures, the three great items of colonial demand, having all experienced a continued

augmentation. The following table shows the exact increase or decrease in each article :—

DECLARED VALUE OF EXPORTATIONS.

Month ending Feb. 5.	1853.	1854.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
Alkali—viz., soda	37,520	26,522	—	10,998
Beer and Ale	106,066	71,585	—	34,481
Butter	25,694	20,211	—	5,483
Candles	8,563	9,974	1,411	—
Cheese	6,403	5,452	—	951
Coals and culm	90,556	99,660	9,104	—
Cordage and cables	9,040	7,355	—	1,685
Cotton manufactures	2,105,924	1,781,546	—	324,378
Cotton yarn	482,865	451,482	—	31,383
Earthenware	101,282	76,342	—	24,940
Fish	11,791	13,668	1,877	—
Glass manufactures	35,369	31,534	—	3,835
Haberdashery and millinery	234,978	363,790	128,812	—
Hardware and cutlery	227,730	263,177	35,447	—
Leather	92,889	113,884	20,995	—
Linen manufactures	367,872	354,915	—	12,957
Linen yarn	88,631	87,519	—	1,112
Machinery	124,894	120,850	—	4,044
Metals	858,216	774,817	—	83,399
Oil and seeds	34,844	27,933	—	6,911
Painters' colours, &c.	16,847	17,932	1,085	—
Salt	18,414	16,743	—	1,671
Silk manufactures	141,939	133,408	—	8,531
Silk, thrown	25,530	24,321	—	1,209
Silk, twist and yarn	15,323	18,036	2,713	—
Soap	26,558	16,865	—	9,693
Stationery	31,934	46,495	14,561	—
Sugar, refined	19,936	21,505	1,569	—
Wool, sheep or lambs'	40,232	41,312	1,080	—
Woollen manufactures	755,657	730,326	—	25,331
Woollen yarn	88,344	93,934	5,590	—
Total	6,231,841	5,863,093		

The amount of imported articles taken into consumption likewise shows a partial falling off. As regards breadstuffs, the importations have been large, but have consisted chiefly of flour, owing to the supply being derived from America. In the quantity of tea taken into consumption there has been a great diminution, while the arrivals have been unusually heavy. Coffee, wine, and eggs were also on the adverse side, but sugar, tobacco, and spices present an increase.

Subjoined are the quantities of provisions, &c., imported and taken for home consumption :—

Month ending Feb. 5.	Imported.		Home Consumption.	
	1853.	1854.	1853.	1854.
Grain, wheat, quarters ..	440,902	297,439	441,679	297,489
Grain of other descriptions, quarters	214,220	53,137	214,220	53,138
Indian corn, quarters ..	95,925	98,649	95,925	98,649
Flour and meal, cwt. ..	305,752	847,880	305,752	847,880
Provisions.—Bacon, pork, lard, &c., cwt. ..	20,819	10,947	Free.	Free.
Butter and cheese, cwt. ..	33,112	44,553	47,626	53,922
Animals, No.	7,520	7,008	Free.	Free.
Eggs, No.	6,282,351	4,618,069	6,282,351	4,628,605
Cocoa, lb.	221,598	508,432	352,578	520,827
Coffee, British, lb. ..	1,066,077	1,627,982	2,699,905	2,772,497
Ditto, foreign, lb. ..	488,015	456,497	1,096,584	885,916
Total coffee ..	1,554,092	2,084,479	3,796,489	3,658,413
Sugar—				
West India, cwt. ..	72,473	162,429	254,523	238,062
Mauritius, cwt. ..	48,238	86,750	104,262	119,914
East India, cwt. ..	120,681	55,606	159,467	162,473
Foreign, cwt. ..	57,163	74,150	77,419	129,772
Total sugar ..	298,555	378,935	595,671	650,221
Tea, lb.	5,649,729	7,623,067	4,403,982	4,027,610
Rice, cwt.	9,174	10,635	62,620	78,587
Spirits, gallons ..	369,427	448,455	456,032	485,119
Wines, gallons ..	170,993	442,744	637,583	578,945
Opium, lb.	3,149	14,772	6,855	6,974
Tobacco, lb.	790,652	437,374	2,662,435	2,692,575
Fruits.—Currants, figs, and raisins, cwt. ..	30,075	40,898	22,461	16,901
Spices, lb.	491,442	554,514	101,652	427,920
Ditto, cwt.	2,619	3,857	307	350

The following are the comparative imports and exports of raw material, showing a decrease in every article but tallow :—

Month ending February 5.	Imported.		Home Consumption.	
	1853.	1854.	1853.	1854.
Flax, cwt.	69,348	36,824	—	—
Hemp, cwt.	21,477	8,280	—	—
Raw silk, lb.	818,638	815,577	30,585	43,900
Cotton, cwt.	398,301	317,022	36,547	44,184
Wool, lb.	3,349,052	2,889,225	415,842	888,306
Tallow, cwt.	40,481	50,013	—	—

Of silk manufactures the totals stand thus :—

Month ending February 5.	Imported.		Home Consumption.	
	1853.	1854.	1853.	1854.
Silk, manufactures of Europe, lb.	52,653	61,539	51,000	60,081
Ditto, of India, pieces ..	6,865	11,133	21,729	24,106

With respect to other imported articles of raw material, the state of politics seems as yet to have exerted no check, since dyes, hides, leather manufactures, glass manufactures, palm and cocoanut oil, guano, timber, and metals (except lead, spelter, and tin), all figure for largely augmented totals. The general stocks held in manufacturers' hands may therefore be assumed to have been well kept up.

THE BANK OF FRANCE.

THE *Moniteur* publishes the following monthly debtor and creditor account of the Bank of France, made up to the 9th of March :—

DEBTOR.						F.	C.
Capital of the bank	..	..	..	..	..	91,250,000	0
Reserve of the bank	..	..	..	..	..	12,980,750	14
Reserve of the bank in landed property	..	..	..	..	..	4,000,000	0
Bank notes in circulation	..	..	..	..	..	468,048,700	0
Do. of the branch banks	..	..	..	..	..	130,664,075	0
Bank notes to order	..	..	..	..	..	6,573,970	99
Receipts payable at sight	..	..	..	..	..	11,459,591	0
Treasury account current, creditor	..	..	..	..	..	60,331,849	31
Sundry accounts current	..	..	..	..	..	132,210,789	17
Do. with the branch banks	..	..	..	..	..	24,978,963	0
Dividends payable	..	..	..	..	..	716,191	25
Discounts and sundry interests	..	..	..	..	..	5,281,996	96
Commission on deposits	..	..	..	..	..	5,540	90
Rediscounted during the last six months	..	..	..	..	..	1,289,106	12
Received on account of protested bills	..	..	..	..	..	75,427	66
Sundries	..	..	..	..	..	621,772	5
						F.950,488,723	55
CREDITOR.						F.	C.
Cash in hand	..	..	..	..	..	178,676,239	3
Do. in the branch banks	..	..	..	..	..	113,267,208	0
Commercial bills overdue	..	..	..	..	..	751,937	16
Commercial bills discounted, but not yet due, of which	..	..	..	..	..		
70,263,326f. 74c. were received from the branch banks	..	..	..	..	..	189,722,706	62
Do. in the branch banks	..	..	..	..	..	191,711,039	0
Carried forward ..						F.674,129,129	81

	Brought forward	..	F.674,129,129	81
Advanced on deposit of bullion	..	..	1,191,300	0
Do. by the branch banks	..	..	2,204,338	0
Advanced on French public securities	..	..	24,674,036	10
Do. by the branch banks	..	..	8,839,810	0
Advanced on railway securities	..	..	46,772,900	0
Do. by the branch banks	..	..	17,384,922	0
Advanced to the state on the treaty of June 30th, 1848	..	..	70,000,000	0
Discounted Treasury bonds for the Treasury	..	..	30,000,000	0
Government stock reserved	..	..	10,000,000	0
Do. disposable	..	..	55,505,958	62
Hotel and furniture of the bank	..	..	4,000,000	0
Landed property of the branch banks	..	..	3,886,048	0
Expense of the management of the bank	..	..	595,436	46
Sundries	..	..	1,304,844	56
			<u>F.950,488,723</u>	<u>55</u>

Certified by the Governor of the Bank of France, Count D'ARGOUT.

It appears, from the preceding account, that the cash in hand has decreased by 574,244f. 64c., and increased in the departments by 11,881,072f. The commercial bills discounted have decreased in Paris by 11,643,653f. 23c., and in the departments by 17,882,486f. The advances on public securities have decreased by 2,689,500f. The bank notes in circulation have decreased by 20,603,300f. The balance to the credit of the Treasury has increased by 4,294,900f. The sundry credits have decreased by 3,375,490f. 16c.

Banking and Commercial Law.

THE ALTERATION IN THE LAW OF EVIDENCE AS REGARDS THE STAMP LAWS.

THERE appears at length to be some prospect of removing the grievances which are imposed upon the public by the operation of the stamp laws. At present the revenue is protected in two ways. First, by the imposition of penalties upon parties evading the payment of the stamp duties by the use of unstamped instruments, and second, by rendering the instrument itself inadmissible in any court of justice for the purpose of sustaining any right. No objection can be made to the first. It falls upon the guilty parties, and is generally incurred by them knowingly and deliberately. But it is far different with the second. Under it the innocent and the honest may suffer, while the guilty and fraudulent derive a positive advantage. Thus, a creditor may give a receipt for money paid to him, and then exclude that receipt from being used as evidence if it should happen to have a wrong stamp, or no stamp, although he drew up the document, and selected the stamp and paper on which it is written. Again,

any of the parties to a bill of exchange or promissory note could escape from all liability on the instruments themselves, if the stamp was not correct. The case of documents purporting to be foreign bills of exchange, but in fact being drawn in this country and unstamped, and the scandalous robbery committed thereby on honest holders, has been lately brought under the notice of the readers of the magazine.

A catalogue of the expenses, the frauds, and the entire loss of undoubted rights, resulting from the stamp laws, would make any honest man shudder. Those who are curious in such matters can refer to any legal work on the stamp laws, and look into the cases there cited, and they will see a small, but only a small, portion of the various injuries those laws have inflicted.

We can, therefore, congratulate the public that at last a remedy appears to have been found. It is not contained in any measure of the Chancellor of the Exchequer. The holders of that office, in their anxiety to protect the revenue, have entirely lost sight of every wrong the stamp laws have done. The remedy is contained in the proposed act to amend the proceedings and evidence in the courts of law; and it is very simple and very efficacious. It is this.—Whenever any document is objected to in evidence for want of a stamp, the Court is to decide if it requires a stamp; and if it does, the document is not to be rejected, but the amount of the stamp and penalty is to be paid into the hands of the officer of the court, and the document is then to be received in evidence.

The liability to a penalty expressly for giving an unstamped document remains as before. The further liability to pay another penalty before such a document can be stamped and used by any party, also remains, and therefore the revenue seems sufficiently protected. The entire benefit of the change results from allowing that to be done in the court and during the trial which formerly could not be done.

We trust this alteration of the law will be carried out to its full extent, and that it will not be fettered by any unnecessary restriction, or by limiting it to any particular kind of document. Let it be universal in its operation, and it will prove one of the greatest benefits which can be conferred in a commercial country.

THE LATE BILL FORGERIES.

At the Central Criminal Court, on the 1st of March, William B. Anderson, 30, described as a merchant, was indicted for feloniously forging and uttering an acceptance to a bill of exchange for £2,480, with intent to defraud. The evidence detailed was as follows:—Mr. Thomas Ryder, merchant and commis-

sion agent, Old Broad-street, said : He had had business transactions with the prisoner, and had realised securities for him ; and on the 19th December the prisoner asked him if he thought Mr. Freese, a friend of his, could get a bill for £2,000, drawn at six months' date upon Messrs. Van Notten and Co., discounted for him. He saw the prisoner a day or two afterwards, and told him that Mr. Freese would discount the bill, and an appointment was made to be at that gentleman's offices on the 20th December, and the prisoner said that he wanted £1,600 in cash, and a bill upon France for £600. A bill for £2,480 was then handed to Mr. Freese. He saw the prisoner in the custody of Forrester, the officer, the same day.—Cross-examined : Had had many mercantile transactions with the prisoner, and had advanced him money personally to the amount of £100,000 upon goods he had shipped for him.—Mr. Emanuel Green, clerk to Mr. Freese, deposed that he received the bill for £2,480 and handed it to his master, who went out and returned with a cheque for £2,000, which witness cashed at Messrs. Barclay and Co.'s, and he gave the prisoner £1,600 of the money. The remainder was afterwards handed over to Messrs. Overend, Gurney, and Co.—Cross-examined : The prisoner asked Mr. Freese to purchase a bill upon Havre for him, for £600, with the balance of the bill.—Mr. D. B. Chapman deposed that he was one of the firm of Overend, Gurney, and Co., money-dealers, Lombard-street. The bill now produced, for £2,480, was brought to him on the 20th December, by Mr. Freese, and he gave that gentleman a cheque for £2,000 on account of it. Witness had discounted another bill for £3,050 on the Saturday before.—The two bills, the one which formed the subject of the indictment and the one for £3,050, were put in and read. They were both dated Calcutta, October 4, 1853, and purported to be drawn by T. Dupont, upon a M. Le Brun, and to be accepted by Van Notten and Co. There was also an indorsement upon them, dated Paris, Dec. 13, by which the bills were made payable to the order of the prisoner, and his name appeared upon both the instruments.—Mr. Chapman then went on to state, that besides these two bills, a third bill, for £2,250, which also appeared to bear the acceptance of Messrs. Van Notten, and which was of a similar character to the other two, had been brought to them by Messrs. Womersley and Burt, bill brokers, and discounted ; and the fact of acceptances to so large an amount being brought within so short a space of time, excited his suspicions, and induced him to communicate with Messrs. Van Notten, when the third bill for £2,480 was brought to be discounted ; and in consequence of what he heard from them he took steps, first to stop the payment of the £2,000 cheque, and next to apprehend the prisoner.—Cross-examined : By the tracing of the notes it had been ascertained that £1,000 of the £1,600 that were handed over to the prisoner went into the hands of Messrs. Van Notten. He knew that firm very well. It consisted at present of Messrs. C. and L. Pole, Brothers ; and he had known both of these gentlemen for many years, and had had business transactions with them—not in the way of discounting bills, but by their depositing money with his firm at interest.—Mr. L. Pole deposed that he and his brother carried on business as merchants in Lime-street square, under the firm known as P. and C. Van Notten and Co. They were acquainted with the prisoner as a merchant in December last, and for some years before. Witness had examined the bills that had been produced, and the acceptances P. and C. Van Notten and Co., which appeared upon them, were all forged, and were neither written by themselves nor by their authority.—The witness was subjected to a long and searching cross-examination, but the only facts elicited appeared to be that the firm had placed very great confidence in the prisoner, and that the transactions that had taken place between them were to the extent of between £100,000 and £150,000.—The Chief Baron having summed up, the jury returned a verdict of Guilty.

The prisoner applied to the court that sentence might be postponed until the next session, to enable his being examined under the commission of bankruptcy, and also to obtain the examination of other witnesses, to explain various transactions, which he was unable to do at the trial. He also put in a number of bought notes, and other documents, to show that he had been connected in various transactions with Van Notten and others.

The Lord Chief Baron having perused the documents, said he saw no ground whatever for postponing the sentence. The documents put in, instead of favouring the prisoner, only confirmed his judgment in the justice of the verdict the jury had come to. The prisoner had been convicted upon the clearest evidence of forging and uttering three bills of exchange to the enormous amount of £7,888, purporting to be drawn by a Mr. Le Brun, at Calcutta, upon Messrs. P. and C. Van Notten in favour of a M. Dupont, of Paris, from whom the prisoner alleged he had received them in payment for consignment of tartaric acid and iodine. Two of these bills, through the agency of other persons, the prisoner had got discounted by Overend, Gurney, and Co., within a few hours of each other, and later in the day the prisoner had uttered the third bill for £2,480, no doubt not intending it should go to the same firm, but it turned out that it did not; suspicion was aroused, inquiries made, and then it was found that they were forgeries, which led to the apprehension, committal, and final conviction of the prisoner. He (the learned judge) should not be doing justice to the public and the mercantile world if he did not pass a very severe sentence, which was, that the prisoner undergo a penal servitude for eight years.

An application was made for the £600 taken from the prisoner to be given up to Messrs. Overend, Gurney, and Co. This was resisted on the part of the assignees of the prisoner, and the court declined to make any order.

CHARTERED BANK OF INDIA, AUSTRALIA, AND CHINA.

A QUESTION has been raised between the directors and a large number of scripholders of the Chartered Bank of India, Australia, and China, as to the desirableness of proceeding with the foundation of that establishment. The altered aspect of the money market—the competition in banking, not only in Australia but also in India—are the reasons especially adduced by the dissentients for not concurring in the views propounded by the directors; an endeavour is therefore being made to resist the payment of calls, and to organise a movement for finally “winding up.” The board, taking an entirely opposite course, express their determination to carry out the undertaking, relying upon the valuable privileges of the charter, and the ascertained field for profitable operations in the Indian presidencies, China and Australia. At a meeting of scripholders, held on the 16th of March, the position assumed by both parties was freely discussed, not unaccompanied by serious allegations against retired directors, who were said to have sold their shares at a high premium before they left the board. It is to be hoped that some amicable adjustment of differences between the parties may be arrived at without an appeal to Chancery, which would incur increased expense, and, probably, not definitively settle the dispute. The character of the existing directors is too high to warrant the assumption that they are actuated by any doubtful motives in the

plans they are pursuing, and we yet anticipate that they will be able to meet the wishes of the majority of their constituents. In an elaborate statement which they have circulated, they thus describe what they conceive to be the prospects of success:—

“1st. That during the intermediate period, the progress of steam communication has greatly increased, and the trade with Australasia, both direct and circuitous, has been rapidly developing itself. 2nd. That the test of experience, as to the expansion of this vast commerce, confirms the importance attached by the prospectus to the extended operations which the charter permits to this company, and leaves no reasonable doubt that the expansion will continue; it being a peculiar feature of this bank, as already pointed out, that it follows the natural course of commerce round the world, whilst it possesses all the advantages of the direct communication with the mother-country. 3rd. That it is well understood that the government has no intention of granting any more banking charters. 4th. That many important banking projects which were competitors in 1852, are now permanently withdrawn. 5th. That this bank will commence its operations at a period when the important trade with Australia will have been established on a sound basis, and the risks incidental to the development of a new trade will have been avoided. The court are not insensible to the pressure which at present exists in the money market. They, however, felt it a duty, on receiving the charter from government, to make a first call. It was necessary to do so, in order that the true state of the proprietary should be ascertained, and that the deed of settlement should be executed; and those who take an interest in the future prospects of the bank must bear in mind that it cannot begin its effective business until half its capital is paid up; and it is therefore the duty of the directors, and the interest of the shareholders, that there should be no delay in the calls beyond what is necessary to prevent an undue pressure during a period of scarcity of money. But, in making further calls, the directors will not be indifferent to the state of the money market, and other circumstances, and they will continue to exercise the same caution and economy as hitherto in conducting the affairs; but they are under the conviction, that if they were to delay the present call, as some parties have requested, or if they hesitated to declare their intention to carry out, gradually and cautiously, an undertaking so important to the public, and so full of promise to the interests of all concerned in it, they would be virtually sacrificing a most valuable property, and abandoning a most imperative duty.”

Legal Miscellany.

CHILD'S BANK.—BISHOP v. THE COUNTSSE OF JERSEY.

Vice-Chancellor's Courts, Monday, February 13.—Before Vice-Chancellor Sir R. T. KINDERSLEY.

This bill was filed to recover from the firm of Child and Co., bankers at Temple Bar, £5,000 under these circumstances:—The bill stated that the plaintiff's husband and her family had for many years banked with the defendant's firm. Mr. Bishop died in 1842, and in 1847 the plaintiff, being possessed of certain Dutch bonds, was advised by a Mr. Wood, then a partner in the firm, to sell those bonds, and invest them upon some better security, which she accordingly did by a letter written by Wood, and signed by her in the following words:—

“Sell the whole of my Dutch Stock, and invest the balance, after reserving £5,500, in Bank Stock. M. E. BISHOP.”

The plaintiff had a conversation with Wood at the time, and desired to communicate with her relatives; but he represented that, as they had many customers who would gladly avail themselves of the opportunity he had of a good investment, she must decide at once. He also represented that his son was in a good way of business, and it was for his benefit that the investment would be made; and a promissory note was given in this form:—

“Five years after the date hereof, I promise to pay to Mary Eleanor Bishop, or to her order, £5,000, for value received, together with interest for the same at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum, until discharged.

WILLIAM WOOD, the younger.”

Two payments of interest were made in respect of this alleged security, and a cheque which Mrs. Bishop had drawn in favour of a person named Jackson for the £5,000, payable to bearer, put to her debit. In July, 1849, Wood absconded and went to America, and the cheque, promissory note and entries of interest turned out to be worthless, and, in fact, no investment had ever been made, but Wood had appropriated the £5,000 to his own use. The plaintiff, in her evidence, confirmed these statements made by the bill, and swore that Wood was the person with whom she had always transacted business, as one of the firm, and that she had such confidence in him that she agreed to what he proposed in that confidence, and drew the cheque and took the promissory note, which she kept until Wood absconded; that the sale of the stock took place through the brokers of the firm; and when Wood absconded, a Mr. Sheppard (as she believed) stated that they were aware of the transaction, and upon her rejoining “Not before Mr. Wood went away?” he said, “I believe some of our people knew of it,” or words to that effect. Under these circumstances, and the bill alleging the above facts, the present suit was instituted to make the firm liable for the £5,000, upon the ground of such a recognition of the transaction by the firm, by the entries in the books, by the employment of their own broker, and the authority which Wood had to act for the firm generally by the firm, as to constitute a complete liability on their part. On the other hand, the defendants contended that the transaction in question was out of the ordinary course of business, and did not render them liable for the default of Wood.

The Vice-Chancellor said that he had great sympathy for the plaintiff, a lady unacquainted with matters of business, and who had undoubtedly suffered in the present instance; the question, however, was a legal one, and, feeling no doubt upon it, he thought it better at once to express his opinion. His Honour then referred to the facts above stated, and said that there was not a particle of evidence to show that any other partner in the firm besides Mr. Wood had been at all cognizant of what had passed between him and the plaintiff. It was true that the £5,000 had been paid out by the bank upon a cheque drawn by the plaintiff, payable to Mr. Jackson or bearer; but a banker was not bound to inquire into the circumstances under which any cheque given by a customer was drawn. No one acquainted with business could suppose that a mere private arrangement between a customer and a partner for an advance to that partner's son, could render a firm liable. Lending money at interest, the trade of a money scrivener, was not within the scope of a banker's business. With respect to the entry of payment in the pass-book, that cast no responsibility on the firm. When money was paid into a banker's, it was neither their business nor duty to inquire into the circumstances of the party making such payment, nor his reasons for so doing. They could only receive it, and post it in the book in any name that was given. It was much to be regretted that a lady should sustain so heavy a loss, under such circumstances as were here detailed; but, upon the facts disclosed, the bill must be dismissed.

IN RE THE ST. MARYLEBONE JOINT-STOCK BANKING COMPANY.

*Vice-Chancellor's Courts, Feb. 24.—Before Vice-Chancellor
Sir R. T. KINDERSLEY.*

This was a motion to discharge an order made by the Master upon Lord Harrington, Sir C. F. Maclean, the Rev. J. J. Marsham, Marianne Marsham, and others, for payment of a call of £30 per share, and £4 per share for costs, as contributories in this company, which was in course of winding-up under the Joint-Stock Companies' Acts. The call of £30 per share was alleged to be three times, and the £4 five times, more than was necessary for the purpose for which it was made. The legal liability had, in fact, not been yet determined, and therefore, at all events, no call for costs could be made until the whole case was concluded. The creditors must come in and prove before any such order could be made on the contributories. The appealing parties had been most unfairly drawn into this scheme. The being put on the list of contributories decided nothing, and it had been held in all the cases that a legal liability constituted the only claim against a contributory.

Mr. Swanston, Mr. Glasse, Sir W. Riddell, Mr. Southgate, and Mr. Bagshawe appeared for the appellants. Mr. Roxburgh, for the official manager, supported the Master's decision.

The Vice-Chancellor thought that the Master could make an order for assisting the official manager. The only ground to upset the Master's decision was a gross miscarriage, which was not pretended. Funds were absolutely necessary to go on with, and therefore, to some extent at least, the Master must be right. Persons holding 1,225 shares were bankrupt, and £2,500 only would be produced by the £4 call.

Mr. Cole, for Mr. Walker, a creditor, supported the Master's finding. Mr. Hetherington appeared for other parties.

The Vice-Chancellor observed that, with respect to the call of £30 per share, until there was some proof of the actual liabilities to be paid, the call ought not to be made. The claims were not yet proved, and it might turn out that £5 of debts were all that could be proved, and the money would be lying in the banker's hands, and would, perhaps, have to be paid to the contributories, if alive. That order should, therefore, be discharged. As to the £4 order for costs, that was quite a different matter. That appeared to consist chiefly of the official manager's charges for trouble, &c., in carrying on the winding-up, and of his solicitor, amounting to £2,000. It was quite just that the official manager should be paid; but the Master had not stated the principle upon which he had determined that a particular sum should be so paid, and, indeed, there did not appear to have been sufficient evidence before the Master. The same thing applied to the solicitor's charges, and therefore this order as to costs must be discharged, but with liberty to the Master to make such other order for a call for costs as he might think proper.

Reports of Joint-Stock Banks.

BANK OF ENGLAND.

A GENERAL court of Bank Stock proprietors was held on the 16th of March, for the declaration of a dividend. At twelve o'clock precisely, the governor (Mr. J. G. Hubbard), the deputy-governor (Mr. T. M. Weguelin), and the other directors entered the bank parlour, and business forthwith commenced. It was noticed, however, that the attendance generally was not so numerous as on former occasions.

The minutes of the last general court having been read and confirmed,

The Governor said,—I have now to acquaint the court that this is one of the quarterly general courts appointed by the charter, and also one of the usual half-yearly courts appointed by the 12th bye-law, to consider of a dividend. I have further to state that the net profits for the half-year ending 28th of February, were £670,908 7s. 6d., and that the "rest," out of which the dividend is to be made, amounted to £3,685,466 18s. 5d. This will enable the court to declare a dividend of $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., and leave the "rest" £3,030,581 18s. 5d. (Hear, hear.) The court of directors, therefore, recommend that a dividend of $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. be made out of the interests and profits of the half-year ending the 28th of February, without deduction on account of income-tax. (Hear, hear.) Before actually putting this resolution, however, I think it my duty to the proprietors to state, in order that they may not be misled by the largeness of the dividend proposed on the the present occasion, that they must connect with it the peculiarly favourable circumstances in which all banking institutions have been placed during the last twelve months. (Hear, hear.) It is not to be supposed by the proprietors that this increased rate of dividend can be kept up. The amount of our securities is less than it has been, and therefore the bank cannot make such large profits. I will also state that the proposed measure of an increased income-tax presses with peculiar weight upon the Bank of England, because the bank holds a large amount of terminable annuities, and, of course, upon these we have to pay a greater amount of dividend than upon other descriptions of stock. (Hear, hear.) If, therefore, we shall not again be able to present the proprietors with a dividend of $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., or even with a 4 per cent. dividend, they must not think that it will be owing to a want of zeal in their cause. (Hear, hear.) I have, therefore, now to propose, that this court do declare a dividend of $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. for the half-year ending the 28th of February last, without deduction on account of income-tax. (Applause.)

Mr. Alderman Salomons wished to say a few words before the resolution was put. He was glad to hear the governor refer to the peculiarly heavy charge which would be made upon the bank in the shape of income-tax. (Hear, hear.) It should be borne in mind that the terminable annuities were running out, and that the number of years they would be enjoyed would be comparatively small; and he thought that the bank ought to be placed in the same position as every other banking institution in the kingdom. (Hear, hear.) If this measure were just towards them, it was just towards others—and if unjust towards them, of course it was equally unjust towards others. Now, circumstances might arise which would render it necessary to permanently increase taxation; and it was therefore the duty of the bank to take the lead, and show to the ministers of the day the great injustice to which their body would be subject by the proposed measure, if the same amount should be levied on the fixed capital of the country. The governor had properly directed their attention to the subject, as well as to the circumstances by which the Bank of England were enabled to pay so handsome a dividend. (Hear, hear.) He (Mr. Alderman Salomons) thought it right to express his opinion that during the last twelve months the Bank of England had been most admirably managed, and that the directors had found it to be their duty to resist the importunities of the minister of the day (hear, hear); for the obligations of the company required that they should alike look to the wants of trade and the various internal and external circumstances of the country, without any partiality exclusively to the profits of the proprietors. (Hear, hear.) He was not aware that the Chancellor of the Exchequer had made any direct communication to the directors on the subject of his plans, but it was well known that his object was to have reduced the interest on the debt; and the present was the first instance, so far as he (Mr. Alderman Salo-

mons) knew, in which the "Old Lady of Threadneedle-street" had found it to be her duty to run counter to the views of the minister; and she had thereby done a great deal to assist the financial interests of the country. The amount of interest now to be received had been fairly, honestly, and properly earned—earned with a view to the interests of the proprietary, and with a view at the same time to the general interests of the community at large; and, while they were to enjoy so unusually large a dividend, he must again say that he rejoiced that it was fairly and honestly earned; and earned because money was dear, and not because the people complained of the expenses of conducting the affairs of the country. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. M. Clark would only remark, in reference to the observations of the governor and of Mr. Alderman Salomans, that one compensating circumstance appeared to have been lost sight of. If the increase in the property and income-tax became protracted, it would probably be through the continuance of war. In that case there would be a steady, high rate of interest, which might compensate for any payment made on the other hand. (Hear.)

The Governor.—In answer to the hon. proprietor (Mr. Clark), I will merely say that, should war continue, there may be compensating circumstances; but I thought it my duty to put you in possession of the possible difficulty that might arise. (Hear, hear.) I should not feel it my duty, however, to allow the observations of Mr. Alderman Salomans to pass without saying that on no occasion has the Chancellor of the Exchequer ever used any influence with the bank directors that he did not think was beneficial to the proprietors as well as to the country at large, or with an idea that the bank directors would adopt his suggestions unless they thought them consistent with their duty to the proprietors. (Applause.) I now propose that the dividend for the half-year be at the rate of $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., without deduction for income-tax.

The motion was then carried unanimously.

The Governor.—I have now to acquaint the court that, in connexion with the vote which they have just adopted, a day must be dedicated to a ballot. I have, therefore, to move that this court be adjourned to the 21st instant, to take the ballot.

The motion was carried.

Mr. Alderman Salomans moved the thanks of the court to the governor and directors, which, being seconded by Mr. Clark, was carried unanimously.

The governor having shortly returned thanks, the court adjourned.

On Tuesday, the 21st March, the dividend was officially confirmed.

BIRMINGHAM BANKING COMPANY.

THE twenty-fourth annual general meeting of this bank was held at Dee's Royal Hotel, on the 22nd of February, Mr. Charles Shaw in the chair; when the following report was unanimously adopted.

"At this twenty-fourth annual meeting of your company, the directors have more than ordinary satisfaction in presenting their report. The circumstances of the times have been eminently favourable for banking operations during the past year; a large increase in the returns, and of course of profits, being the natural consequence of the enhanced prices of all commodities; and the sound state of trade generally has operated to reduce the necessary deduction for bad debts to a minimum amount. Your directors will not venture to express any opinion on the prospects of business for the current year; but perhaps it is not too much to suppose that a state of active warfare (if that calamity occur) will materially interfere with the general prosperity which has prevailed during the past year. It is, therefore, perhaps only prudent on their part to warn you against making the past year a standard for the present, or even for some

future years. At the same time it is, however, both remarkable and encouraging to mark how adverse conditions are often anticipated or counter-balanced by opportune occurrences; such, for instance, as the gold discoveries in relation to the extending trade of the world, and especially in relation to the deficiencies of the late harvest in this country and in many parts of Europe. It is now seventeen years since, on an arrangement for enlarging the basis of your company, the proprietors at that time authorised the directors to capitalise the whole reserve of undivided profits, in the full confidence that the future augmented and growing business would yield sufficient profits to enable you to make satisfactory divisions from year to year, and in due time, to form a substantial guarantee fund. In this confidence it is most satisfactory to your directors to state, that you and they have not been disappointed. And now, without further observations, your directors beg to state that, after making all necessary and prudent deductions, the net profits of the year 1853 amount to £44,758 6s. 2d. In September last a half-yearly dividend of ten shillings, or at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum, and a bonus of five shillings per share, were paid out of this fund; and your directors now recommend you to declare a similar dividend and bonus, and to authorise the transfer of £14,043 5s. 3d. to the guarantee fund, which will still leave a balance of £715 0s. 11d. to be carried forward to the current year. Your directors further recommend you to sanction the transfer to the guarantee fund of £1,956 14s. 9d., the balance of profits remaining at the close of 1852, and of £4,000 previously written off to cover estimated doubtful debts, but not eventually required for that purpose, which will raise the guarantee fund to £100,000—a consummation on which your directors offer you their cordial congratulations.

The dividend was declared, and the usual votes were passed. A presentation of £500 to Mr. Beaumont, from the funds of the bank, as a recognition of his services, was unanimously agreed to.

Statement of Account.

Amount of net profits for 1853	..	..	..	£44,758	6	2
September dividend of 10s. per share, or at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum on £200,000	..	..	£10,000	0	0	
Ditto, bonus of 5s. per share	..		5,000	0	0	
Dividend of 10s. per share, payable 1st March next	..	..	10,000	0	0	
Bonus of 5s. per share, ditto	..		5,000	0	0	
Transfer to guarantee fund	..		14,043	5	3	
				44,043	5	3
Balance to be carried forward	..	..		£715	0	11

Guarantee Fund.

Amount of fund at the last report	..	..	..	£80,000	0	0
Transfer from the profits of 1853	..	..	..	14,043	5	3
Ditto, of the surplus profits of 1852	..	..	..	1,956	14	9
Amount reserved for doubtful debts, but not required for that purpose	..	..	..	4,000	0	0
Total of guarantee fund	..	..	..	£100,000	0	0

THE ENGLISH, SCOTTISH, AND AUSTRALIAN CHARTERED BANK.

THE first ordinary meeting of the shareholders of this bank was held on the 27th of February, Mr. Charles Johnston in the chair, when the following report was adopted:—

“ The directors have much satisfaction in submitting to the proprietors an outline of the proceedings they have adopted in the establishment of the bank. The entire number of shares were allotted in the first instance, and the deposit thereon duly paid. The appointment of properly qualified officers for the branches then occupied the serious consideration of the directors; and they consider themselves fortunate in having secured the services of Mr. John A. Jackson, as inspector—a gentleman who, in addition to his great experience of Australian affairs, is, in the opinion of the directors, in all respects highly fitted for the office. The directors selected also, with great care, gentlemen of high character and good banking experience, for the offices of branch managers, accountants, and tellers; and they have every reason to be satisfied that these appointments are such as have secured to the bank an effective colonial staff. The first call of £6 per share, which was necessary to complete one-half the capital, was made on the 8th of March, and the amount was received, with the exception of that due on 340 shares, which shares the directors declared to be forfeited, and they were accordingly sold. Of the deposit on these shares, the sum of £460 has been returned to the holders of the scrip, upon satisfactory representations being made accounting for the non-payment of the call. The deed of settlement, as approved at the Board of Trade, having been duly executed by the shareholders, and the requisite amount (one-half of the capital) paid, a certificate was issued by the Lords of the Treasury on the 24th of June, immediately after which the bank commenced business in London, and instructions to the same effect were transmitted to the colonial inspector. Upon the arrival of Mr. Jackson at Sydney, his first object was to secure premises, which he has succeeded in doing, in a very eligible situation, and on moderate terms; and he has also formed a local board, composed of gentlemen of high commercial credit and character. These arrangements having been made, it will be gratifying to the shareholders to be informed that the business of the bank in that city commenced on the 3rd of October, with the best prospects, and that, up to the latest advices received, its progress had been of the most encouraging nature. As soon as his presence in Sydney could be dispensed with, Mr. Jackson proceeded to Melbourne, for the purpose of making similar preparations for business in that city also; and his reports to the directors inform them of his having, after some delay, obtained for a short period suitable and well-situated premises for a banking-house, which, at a very moderate expense, were being adapted for the purpose; that the other officers of the corporation had arrived there; and that he expected to be ready for opening the branch early in January. The directors have further to announce that they have formed a valuable connexion with several of the most influential banking and other establishments in the United Kingdom, through whom a considerable amount of business has already been transacted, with every prospect of a progressive increase. The directors submit statements of the liabilities and assets of the bank, and of profit and loss for the half-year ending on the 31st December last. It will be seen that the net profit, after payment of all the current expenses of the half-year, is £1,295 5s. 9d., which sum the directors recommend should be carried to the profit and loss new account, for disposal the next half-year; and, with respect to the amount of the preliminary expenses, they recommend that £1,000 per annum should be charged to the debit of the profit and loss account, until the whole be extinguished. In conclusion, the directors have the greatest con-

fidence that entire success will attend the operations of the bank, and that the proprietors will receive an ample return for the investment of their capital.

Statement of Account.

LIABILITIES.			
To paid-up capital	£251,200	0	0
Deposit on forfeited shares	900	0	0
Balance carried to profit and loss account ..	3,463	4	10
	<u>£255,563</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>10</u>

ASSETS.			
By loans on security, cash at bankers, &c. ..	£153,923	7	7
Branches at Sydney and Melbourne	93,698	17	9
Preliminary expenses:—			
London	£4,645	8	2
Branches	2,508	0	0
		7,153	8 2
Furniture, &c., London office		422	13 4
Bill and transfer stamps on hand		364	18 0
	<u>£255,563</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>10</u>

Profit and Loss Account for the Half-year ending 31st December, 1853.

To current expenses	£2,167	19	1
Balance	1,295	5	9
	<u>£3,463</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>10</u>
By balance brought down	£3,463	4	10

Before the report was finally adopted, a lengthened discussion took place on the prospect and management of the bank, and the great point that elicited remark was the large amount of salary claimed by the directors. It was also urged that the preliminary expenses had been excessive.

Communications

To the Editor of the Bankers' Magazine,

PRESENTMENT OF PROMISSORY NOTE ON DEMAND.

SIR,—Supposing a promissory note to be drawn by A B, payable on demand, with interest, to C D, and by the latter handed to E F in exchange for its amount.

What duty devolved on E F in respect of presentation for payment?

And how long does the responsibility of C D continue?

In making advances, is it a safe and unquestionable mode of securing to E F the continued responsibility of A B and C D, though no demand for the sum advanced be made for a considerable time?

Feb. 6, 1854.

QUERY.

[The answers to these questions depend upon the particular facts of the case, and must not be understood as true in all cases.

We think the promissory note may be taken against the indorser as a continuing security, and that it will be valid, without presentment, for the term it may reasonably be supposed the security would be required. See *Byles on Bills*, p. 154.]

CHEQUES DRAWN BEYOND PROPER DISTANCE.

SIR,—The first article in your number for this month, on the case of Oppenheim's bankruptcy, certainly discloses a grave peril to which bankers, and the commercial world generally, are exposed in regard to unstamped bills of exchange, purporting to be drawn abroad, but being in fact drawn in England. I think there is a much graver danger to which bankers are liable, though I believe, practically, little has been heard of it.

Suppose a customer to have, on the 1st of January £5,000 to his credit. He makes a purchase of an estate, and travels beyond fifteen miles from the banking-house to attend the appointment to complete. He there pays his purchase-money (£5,000) by an unstamped cheque on the banker, who pays it to bearer, no doubt through a proper and respectable channel, without the slightest suspicion that the cheque was, under these circumstances, utterly void and invalid.

After this, suppose the customer to become bankrupt, the assignees call on the bank to discharge themselves from the £5,000. Under bankruptcy accounts are examined strictly. The bankrupt admits, on inquiry before the commissioner, that this cheque was drawn and issued beyond the legal distance.

What then is the position of the banker, there being a written document? Can he give secondary evidence of any kind, to show that the customer had the benefit of the payment, or must the banker stand or fall upon the sufficiency or non-sufficiency of the check?

21st Feb., 1854.

O.

BANKERS' CLERKS' SALARIES.

SIR,—As much has been said in your magazine lately respecting the salaries of bank clerks, I trust you will allow space for a few remarks on a subject so interesting to those concerned. I see that some advocate the subject being brought before an annual meeting of shareholders, with a view that a hasty resolution to raise salaries may prove advantageous to the clerks. This course is liable to much objection. The shareholders appoint directors to manage the bank; and, having done so, they ought to leave the matter in their hands. Besides, if during a time of bonus and increased dividend a generous enthusiasm might lead a general meeting to a liberal advance of salaries, upon the same principle, a time of bad trade and reduced dividend might be thought a suitable opportunity for making a reduction equally precipitate and injudicious. This leads to the question that the clerks should share in the prosperity of the bank; which, if answered in the affirmative, will in fairness open the way for their partaking in its adversity. I by no means advocate a false economy—every one should be well paid in proportion to his position and qualifications; and, as a true friend of the clerk, I express the opinion that a fixed salary is preferable to one subject to the contingencies of trade and liable to continual fluctuation. By fixed salary, I do not mean that there should not be a proper advance of salary in proportion to services, but that the salary should not vibrate with the profits of the bank.

I remain, sir, your obedient servant,

20th February, 1854.

A CONSTANT READER.

MEMORANDUM OR RECEIPT.

SIR,—The favour of your opinion in the next number of the Magazine, on the following case, will much oblige.

The general practice and custom of the corn merchants and flour millers of this city and county is, to purchase by sample from the growers or farmers, and to receive and weigh the sundry and respective lots in their own stores, and to write off a crane ticket containing a copy of the number, name, weight, price and amount, which amount is paid over the counter to the proper party, together with the ticket, on which is marked the word "*Paid.*"

Query—is a ticket of such form subject to the penny stamp duty, bearing in mind that it is not the receiver but the payer of the money who issues it; and that neither the date nor the name of the latter appears thereon, thereby rendering it a memorandum of mere calculation?

I am, sir, your obedient servant,

Kilkenny, March 13th, 1854.

A CORN MERCHANT.

[We do not think the above document requires the penny receipt stamp.]

NAME TO BE USED IN AN INDORSEMENT—BANK BOOK-KEEPING—BANK SECURITIES.

DEAR SIR,—Would you be kind enough to inform me in your forthcoming Magazine, if you consider it a regular indorsement when a woman, whose husband is dead or attainted signs her maiden name as A B C, when the draft is made payable to the order of Mrs. D E C, D E C being the name of her late husband? or must she describe herself as "wife of the late D E C?" or if husband transported, "wife of D E C transported?" or would it be a regular and legal indorsement for her to write "Mrs. D E C?" If not trespassing too much on your valuable space, will you allow me to suggest, that a series of articles on bank bookkeeping and banking securities, would arouse deep interest in your most valuable Magazine. We have plenty of books on the laws relating to bills of exchange and banker's cheques, but very few, if any, on the above two subjects; and I am told in answer to inquiries, that a knowledge of these subjects can only be acquired by long personal experience. If you could induce the chief accountants of our large banking establishments, both in London and in the provinces, to describe in detail the system of book-keeping for head office and branches adopted in these banks, (no injury would be done to any bank, as no name need be mentioned,) you would confer a great boon to banking officials generally.

I remain, &c.,

February 22nd, 1854.

A SUBSCRIBER AND CASHIER.

[We think the woman should sign the name used in the draft; but if she has ceased to be known by that name, then she might add, "commonly known as so and so." The death or transportation of a husband does not give any right to change the woman's name. At the same time, it may be observed, that in this country the law does not prohibit people from changing their names.]

RECEIPT STAMP TO RECEIPTS INDORSED ON BILLS OF LADING.

SIR,—In the course of my transactions with shippers, I find considerable difference of opinion to exist regarding the validity of receipts indorsed on bills of lading, acknowledging payment of the freight for the shipment specified therein. Some consider that as bills of lading are stamped documents

which can be indorsed over by one party, payable to the order of another, they can claim the privileges of bills or drafts. Others, that from their being stamped, they may be classed with "bonds, mortgages, or other securities," as specified among the "exemptions" enumerated in the Appendix of the Official Explanations of the New Stamp Act; while others affirm that they claim this exemption by a special enactment, which, however, I have never seen, and have no idea when, or if ever, it was passed. Others, again, accept the indorsed discharge without the stamp being affixed, but with hesitation, while others again positively refuse it. Much doubt, you see, therefore prevails. These are questions which few commercial men, have the opportunity of certifying themselves upon; would you therefore clear up this matter, and oblige

Your obedient servant,

A SHIP-BROKER'S CLERK?

Glasgow, March 14th, 1854.

P.S.—Along with the account of freight there is also included a charge for tonnage dues, payable here by the shipper to the River Trust, and which the broker collects. Supposing the indorsed receipt, without the affixed stamp, for the freight merely to be legal, would it cease to be so when this charge amounts to £2?

[We are not aware of any special act exempting receipts on bills of lading from duty. We think a receipt indorsed on a bill of lading, for any money secured thereby, or therein expressed to be payable, is exempt from stamp duty, under the exemption contained in the general Stamp Act, in favour of receipts indorsed "on any instrument whatever duly stamped," "acknowledging the receipt of the consideration-money therein expressed, or the receipt of any principal money, interest or annuity thereby secured." Any charge not secured by the bill of lading, would require to be stamped. The only question which can arise, seems to us to be, whether all prior exemptions from receipt stamp duty are not repealed by the 16 and 17 Vict., cap. 59, and consequently whether exemptions from the receipt stamp duty are not confined now to those specially set forth in that act. This is a point of great importance we have not yet heard discussed; but it seems to us that it may be raised, and that it will be difficult to predict how it will be decided.]

BANKERS' ACCEPTANCES.

SIR,—May I trouble you to inform me if it is not contrary to the custom of bankers (London or provincial) to accept drafts drawn upon them at two months (or any other date) by parties keeping banking accounts with them?

Your obedient servant,

February 23rd, 1854.

P. Y.

P.S.—May I look for an answer in your next number?

[We believe it is the custom of one of the London Joint-Stock Banks to give bill or notes of the bank in return for deposits. We do not know whether this is what is meant in the question. Some of our readers may be able to answer the question, as regards their own experience. We think there can hardly be any custom of this sort referred to, although there may be special arrangements to that effect between bankers and their customers.]

CHEQUE INDORSED TO PAY TO ORDER.

SIR,—Will you favour a constant reader by an answer in your columns to the following question?—

A B draws a cheque on his banker, as follows :—"Pay C D or bearer one

VOL. XIV.

16

hundred pounds." The cheque bears a draft stamp, and is indorsed by C D, "pay E F or order."

Is the banker authorised in paying the above without the indorsement of E F?

I am, sir, your obedient servant,

Cork, March 11th, 1854.

DALCAS.

[We think the cheque requires E F's indorsement. The point seems to be, whether a cheque once payable to bearer can be afterwards restrained by being made payable to order. It is not free from doubt.]

Notes of the Month.

BUILDING SOCIETIES.—We have never been inclined to regard with favour the numerous building societies introduced to public notice, because the plan upon which they have been based, viz., that of terminating within a fixed period, appeared fallacious. It is true, in one or two isolated cases successful results have been achieved, and these have been adopted as affording sound data respecting the principle sought to be developed. The majority of the terminable societies, as they are called, we fear, are not in a flourishing condition; and unless the greatest discretion is displayed in the selection of properties upon which advances are made, the management, satisfactory as it may be, will fail to realise the estimated profits. The great error committed in the original formation of these associations was the presumed advantages which could be derived from the employment of capital within a limited period in freehold and leasehold investments, the attraction of inordinate gains leading many to connect themselves with them before exercising due consideration. The consequence has been disappointment and loss in numerous cases, with limited returns in those where the subscribed amount has proved to be secure. The permanent societies, on the other hand, are calculated to make steady progress. Avoiding the restrictions which their predecessors, greatly to their disadvantage, enforce, they accept business and transact it in the more reasonable manner of accommodating a borrower on terms nearer the market value of money, while the subscriber is content, if the advances be prudently made, to derive a higher interest than he could obtain through ordinary channels without any enhanced risk. The report of the Independent Permanent Building Society clearly demonstrates that 6 per cent. can be paid as a dividend, and that, with diligent supervision, future prosperity is likely to be ensured.

WAR WITH RUSSIA.—A deputation of Russian merchants, consisting of Messrs. Weguelin, Brandt, Margan, Mitchell, Tooke, Hill, Robinson, and Hodgson, waited on Lord Clarendon on the 20th of March, on the subject of the trade with Russia during the approaching war. In answer to their inquiries, his Lordship stated that the Government are disposed to respect the persons and property of all Russian subjects residing as merchants in this country to the full extent promised by the Emperor of Russia towards British subjects, and that all necessary measures will be adopted to enable them to remain unmolested in the quiet prosecution of their business. With regard to licenses for special shipments during the war, it was stated that each case must be considered on its merits; but that the Government will do all in their power, after concert with their naval allies, to protect the *bonâ fide* property of British subjects in Russia. Finally, on the question as to the trade of neutral ports, his Lordship said that the desire is to avoid throwing any special obstacles in its way, and that certificates of origin will not be demanded. Produce shipped from the ports of Prussia, or any other friendly or neutral country, will consequently be considered *primâ facie* as friendly cargo.

ALDERMAN THOMPSON, M.P.—The death of Alderman Thompson, the member for Westmoreland, has been announced. Mr. Thompson was a director of the Bank of England, chairman of the St. Katharine Docks, and a director of the Globe Insurance Company, the Marine Insurance Company, the Blackwall Railway, and other important undertakings. He was also chairman of the Society of Merchants trading to the continent, president to Christ's Hospital, and senior alderman of London. His real and personal estate is estimated at nearly £1,000,000.

BANK MOVEMENTS.

ON Friday evening, the 10th of March, the directors, managers, and clerks of the London and Westminster Bank dined together at the London Tavern, in commemoration of the twentieth anniversary of the opening of that bank. It was stated that the bank had now 138 officers and fifteen directors, of whom six directors and five officers (including the general manager) were connected with the bank at its opening on the 10th of March, 1834; Henry Bosanquet, Esq., was in the chair, supported by Mr. Alderman Farncomb and Mr. Alderman Salomons.

At a special general meeting of the London and County Bank, on the 16th March, the resolution adopted in 1841 for reducing the nominal capital of the company from £2,000,000 to £1,000,000, and the number of shares from 40,000 to 20,000, was unanimously rescinded.

LONDON JOINT-STOCK BANK.—An extraordinary general meeting of the shareholders of this bank, held on the 16th March, in the board room of the establishment, Princes Street, Mansion House, Sir George Carroll, in the chair, Messrs. T. Tilson and W. Burrs were unanimously elected directors, in the room of Sir R. Jenkins and Mr. W. Shadbolt, deceased.

THE British Colonial Bank and Loan Company have given notice that a return of £10 per share on the capital stock of the company is payable to the shareholders.

THE Bank of Australasia have just declared a half-yearly dividend of 24s. per share, being at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum, and also a bonus of 46s. per share, making together £3 10s. per share, free of income-tax.

RADNORSHIRE BANK.—Mr. Thomas Jones, the manager of the Radnorshire Bank, Presteign, died on the 17th of March, having occupied that post for nineteen years. His excellent conduct, both in public and private life, caused him to be universally respected.

THE Sydney banks have agreed to raise the rates of discount, which will in future be as follows:—Bills, three months and under, 4 per cent.; four months and under, 5 per cent.; above four months, 6 per cent.

THE proprietors of the Bank of New South Wales have agreed to transfer one-eighth more of the capital of the bank to the London share register.

THE Australian Joint-Stock Bank, at its half-yearly meeting, has declared a dividend of 4 per cent.

THE directors of the Commercial Bank of Sydney have declared a dividend for the half-year of 15 per cent., with £3,000 added to the reserve fund.

ISLE OF WIGHT SAVINGS' BANK.—Yelf, the fraudulent Isle of Wight actuary, died at the Millbank Penitentiary in the early part of March.

THE directors of the Union Bank of Liverpool have increased the income of their manager, Mr. Lister, from £2,000 to £2,500 per annum, in consideration of his valuable services.

Monetary Intelligence.

REVIEW OF THE MONEY MARKET FOR THE MONTH OF MARCH, 1854.

FINANCIAL affairs have at length encountered the depressing influence of the war question, and we appear to be now on the verge of most momentous changes. Discouraging as the aspect of business had been through the protracted negotiation respecting the dispute in the East, there was some reason to hope that, at the last moment, the Czar would have seen the necessity of coming to an arrangement to prevent the disastrous consequences of a collision with the European powers. It is evident, however, that he relies implicitly on his own resources; and whatever these may be, there seems little prospect of adjusting differences without the intervention of arms. The publication of the secret and confidential correspondence has given quite a new phase to the Turkish question, and exhibits at once the determination of Russia to accomplish, if possible, her daring project. Owing to the apprehensions occasioned by the immediate commencement of hostilities, there has been quite a panic at the Stock Exchange; the simultaneous introduction of loans for France and Turkey assisting to heighten the excitement.

Concurrently with the announcement of new loans, there has been a rapid increase in the demand for money, and the market rate has been maintained at about $5\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. for first class paper. Bills at lengthened periods are only negotiable on terms considerably in advance of this quotation, and the brokers exercise more than ordinary vigilance in their transactions. The late failures have caused some apprehensions respecting the general stability of credit, and it is thought that the present stringency may continue for several months. If the Bank directors do not advance the rate of discount (and there are many predictions in favour of such a course), no chance of any diminution at present exists. The drain of bullion, with the sudden augmentation in private securities, as exhibited by the recent bank returns, has prepared the public to experience some pressure, and it is to be hoped that they have adopted timely precautions. The bill brokers allow 4 per cent. for deposits, with a further $\frac{1}{4}$ per cent. if the amount be placed with them for one month.

The English funds have been affected to the extent of nearly 6 per cent. The sales have been continuous, the public showing a disposition to get out at any sacrifice. The quotation of Consols has progressively declined, with a few intermediate fluctuations, from $91\frac{1}{2}$ to $85\frac{1}{2}$. Exchequer Bills have been influenced by the demand for money, and the issue of £1,750,000 authorized on the introduction of the budget. Their value, which at the beginning of the month was 21s. pm., has declined to about par.

The French loan, which has been brought under the authority of the government, is for 250,000,000 of francs, or £10,000,000 sterling, the subscriptions being taken in a 3 or $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. stock, at the option of the subscriber. The price for the 3 per cents. is fixed at 65 fr. 25 c., and for the $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cents. at 92 fr. 50 c.; the net prices, allowing for discount, being respectively 63 fr. 50 c. and 89 fr. 80 c. A tenth of the amount is to be paid on subscription, and the remainder is spread over fifteen monthly instalments; the tenders to be opened to all parties. When the loan was first announced, the

scrip was quoted 1 to 1½ pm., but the value has since receded, and it is now marked ½ discount to par.

The Turkish loan has been taken by Messrs. Rothschild, who have issued the following notice, stating the terms and price at which the contract will be concluded.

"Turkish loan, 6 per cent., in bonds for £2,727,400 stock, redeemable in 15 years at par, by half-yearly drawings.

"Applications will be received by Messrs. N. M. Rothschild and Sons for this loan until Monday, the 27th inst. inclusive.

"The price is 85 per cent.

1st instalment	15 per cent.	on allotment.	
2nd	"	10	"
3rd	"	20	"
4th	"	20	"
5th	"	20	"

} in monthly
payments.

"Discount allowed at 5 per cent. per annum. The first dividend payable on the 1st of October, 1854.

"*New Court, St. Swithin's Lane, March 24.*"

In the earlier transactions this scrip was marked at 3 pm., but the subsequent depression in other securities has caused a reaction to ¼ to ¾ pm.

Foreign securities have been greatly depreciated by extensive sales. Not one description alone has been affected—all have suffered. Even the most favourite classes, including Dutch and Danish, have steadily receded, and close at the lowest point of the month. The fluctuations in Russian have proved extremely violent, ranging, on some occasions, from 3 to 4 per cent. each day, while the actual fall is 13 per cent. At the latest moment they exhibit more steadiness, but no recovery from the late fall. Mexican, Spanish, and the speculative stocks have been generally operated in at a decline.

Railway, colonial, bank, land, and assurance shares have been compromised more or less by this universal reaction. Whether dividends are favourable or unfavourable, whether prospects have been satisfactory or unsatisfactory, the result is the same—large sales for realization have taken place, which have swamped the markets. In first class railway shares and debentures the margin of loss, compared with quotations a month since, is considerable—in some instances varying between 6 and 9 per cent.

The markets for Russian produce have been in an excited state throughout the month, but the great advance in prices has been during the last fortnight. Tallow and hemp are the special articles which have experienced the chief alteration, the former having improved to 69s. 6d. per cent., and the latter to £75 per ton. In colonial produce the tendency is to decline, the demand for money and limited consumption occasioning an unfavourable influence. Salt-petre exhibits a further rise, purchases having again taken place on a considerable scale.

ENGLISH FUNDS.

	Price on Mar. 1.	Highest.	Lowest.	Price on Mar. 28.
Consols	91½ to 92	91½	85½	86 to 87
Exchequer Bills' average ..	18s. to 20s. pm.	21s. pm.	2s. dis.	2dis. to 2pm.

FOREIGN STOCKS.

Brazilian	98½	99	95	96
Buenos Ayres	55	56½	50	51
Chilian	—	103	100	100
Dutch	59	59½	52	52
Mexican	24½	25	22½	22½
Peruvian, 4½ per cent. ..	66½	67	52½	53
Portuguese, 4 per cent. ..	35½	36	32	32
Russian	95½	96	82	82
Spanish	39	39½	34	34½

RAILWAY SHARES.

	Price on Mar. 1.	Highest.	Lowest.	Price on Mar. 28.
Brighton	97	99½	94	94
Caledonian	56	56½	51	51
Eastern Counties	13 ex d.	13½ ex d.	11½	12½
Great Northern	93½ ex d.	94 ex d.	84½	85
Great Western	81 ex d.	81½ ex d.	72½	72
London and North Western	102½ ex d.	102½ ex d.	94	94
Midland	62½ ex d.	62½ ex d.	56	56
Lancashire and Yorkshire ..	68½	68½	59½	59½
North Staffordshire	11½	11½	10½	10½
South Eastern	63½	64½	58½	58½
South Western	80 ex d.	81 ex d.	74	74
York, Newcastle and Berwick	69½ ex d.	69½ ex d.	60½	61
York and North Midland ..	49½ ex d.	50 ex d.	43½	43½
Northern of France	29½	30	28	28
East Indian	22½	23	22	22

THE STATE OF TRADE.

BUSINESS in the manufacturing districts is impeded through the imminent risk attending hostilities, and the disturbed position of the labour, market resulting from strikes. The proceedings at Preston are calculated to excite further animosity between the operatives and their employers, and delay for some time an adjustment of differences. Orders for Australia have latterly greatly diminished, the over-stocked condition, both of Sydney and Melbourne, checking exports.

THE CORN TRADE.

THE *Gazette* returns for England and Wales have been—

Week ended 1854.	Wheat. Qrs. sold.	Weekly Average.	Six Weeks' Average.	Duty.	Corresponding Six Weeks Last Year.
Feb. 25	55,662 ..	78 5 ..	81 6 ..	1 0 ..	45 5
March 4	61,890 ..	78 3 ..	80 10 ..	1 0 ..	45 5
„ 11	65,753 ..	79 6 ..	80 3 ..	1 0 ..	45 5
„ 18	53,244 ..	79 2 ..	79 8 ..	1 0 ..	45 3

The importations since the harvest of 1853 have been:—

	Wheat. Qrs.	Other Grain. Qrs.	Total. Qrs.
Thirty weeks ended 15th Feb., 1854	3,389,308	2,107,932	5,497,240
Four weeks ended 15th March, 1854 ..	384,866	194,678	579,544
	3,774,174	2,302,610	6,076,784

And the *weekly averages* have been—

Thirty weeks ended 15th Feb., 1854	113,000	70,000	183,000
Four weeks ended 15th March, 1854....	96,000	48,000	144,000
Less ..	17,000	22,000	39,000

The grain trade has been inactive from the commencement of the month, the favourable condition of the weather preventing speculative purchases. Subsequently increased arrivals, particularly from America and the North of Europe, caused a pressure of sales, and quotations have, on the average, receded from 3s. to 5s. per quarter. The accounts from the provinces are extremely encouraging, the prospects of the early crops exceeding the most sanguine

expectations. It is thought in some quarters that the highest point of the market has been attained, but others profess to believe that a reaction may yet take place in favour of holders, the contingencies of war being an important consideration.

EAST INDIA REMITTANCES.

AMOUNT OF BILLS DRAWN FOR.

From Feb. 24th to March 7th inclusive	{ Bengal.....	£46,097 11 3
	{ Madras	7,458 19 7
	{ Bombay	Nil.
From March 8th to March 23rd inclusive	{ Bengal.....	179,817 1 7
	{ Madras	18,693 7 7
	{ Bombay	1,025 17 0
		£247,092 17 0

MONTHLY CHRONOLOGY.

March 6th.—The Chancellor of the Exchequer introduces the Budget, and proposes to increase the property and income-tax, and to issue £1,750,000 Exchequer Bills.

March 7th.—Dinner at the Reform Club to Sir Charles Napier, on his appointment to the command of the Baltic fleet.

March 7th.—Failure of Messrs. Dickson and Co., in the Australian trade, at Glasgow.

March 10th.—Departure of the Baltic fleet from Spithead.

March 10th.—Death of Mr. Alderman Thompson.

March 11th.—The announcement of the French loan of £10,000,000.

March 15th.—Failure of Mr. Thomas McGregor, and Messrs. Warwick, Harrison, and Co., London warehousemen.

March 15th.—Failure of Gladstone, Bond, and Co., brokers, at Manchester.

March 18th.—Arrival of the Baltic fleet in Wingo Sound.

March 20th.—Failure of Messrs. Benjamin Elkin and Sons, in the Australian trade.

March 20th.—Publication of the secret and confidential correspondence between England and Russia.

March 24th.—Failure of Messrs. Monteaux, London and Paris exchange brokers.

March 24th.—Introduction of the Turkish loan through Messrs. Rothschild.

March 25th.—Failure of Messrs. Möller and Burroughs, London exchange brokers.

March 25th.—Intelligence received of the refusal of the Emperor of Russia to make any reply to the ultimatum addressed to him by the English and French Governments.

NOTICES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

We are still in arrear with two or three interesting contributions. All letters, except they involve important questions, should be sent at the latest by the 20th of the month. X. Y. Z. and A. F. N. will understand, under these circumstances, the reason for postponing their communications.

A BANK MANAGER (Chatham).—The subject alluded to is not yet exhausted, and the papers will shortly be resumed.

R. S. T.—The popularity of these associations is for the present very great, but we fear they will so rapidly increase that their utility may be interfered with.

VERITAS.—We are perfectly cognizant of the facts mentioned, although at present we scarcely consider ourselves justified in giving them publicity.

THE ENGLISH FUNDS.—*Daily Prices from 28th February, 1854, to 28th March, 1854, inclusive.*

	26	30	31	1	2	3	4	6	7	8	9	10	11	13	14	15	16	17	18	20	21	22	23	24	25	27	28
Bank Stock (div. 8 per Ct.)	218½	219	217½	..	219	210½	218½	218½	221	..	shut	shut	shut	shut	shut	shut	shut	shut	shut	shut	shut	shut	shut	shut	shut	shut	shut
5 per Ct. Red. Anns.	92½	91½	91½	91½	91½	91½	91½	91½	91½	91½	91½	91½	91½	91½	91½	91½	91½	91½	91½	91½	91½	91½	91½	91½	91½	91½	91½
3 per Ct. Consols Anns.	91½	91½	91½	91½	91½	91½	91½	91½	91½	91½	91½	91½	91½	91½	91½	91½	91½	91½	91½	91½	91½	91½	91½	91½	91½	91½	91½
3½ per cent. Anns.	93½	93½	92½	92½	92½	92½	92½	92½	92½	92½	92½	92½	92½	92½	92½	92½	92½	92½	92½	92½	92½	92½	92½	92½	92½	92½	92½
New 2½ per cent.	..	..	..	..	..	..	78	..	..	..	56	77½	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
New 2½ per cent. Anns.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	114	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Long Anns. Jan. 5, 1860	5½	5½	5½	5½	5½	5½	..	..	..	..	54	shut	shut	shut	shut	shut	shut	shut	shut	shut	shut	shut	shut	shut	shut	shut	shut
Ditto 30 years, Oct. 10, 1859	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5	shut	shut	shut	shut	shut	shut	shut	shut	shut	shut	shut	shut	shut	shut	shut	shut
Ditto 30 years, Jan. 5, 1860	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4½	shut	shut	shut	shut	shut	shut	shut	shut	shut	shut	shut	shut	shut	shut	shut	shut
Ditto 30 years, Jan. 5, 1860	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5	shut	shut	shut	shut	shut	shut	shut	shut	shut	shut	shut	shut	shut	shut	shut	shut
India Stock (div. 104 percent.)	240	239	..	..	..	..	..	235	..	..	233	233	..	..	4p	9p	8p	..	..	932	933	234	227	..	..	225	225
Ditto Bonds £1000 (div. 3¼ p.c.)	122½	122½	119½	119½	119½	119½	7p	8p	4p	4p	4p	4p	..	..	4p	9p	8p	..	..	932	933	par	3d	..	..	7d	7d
Ditto, under £500	..	..	..	..	..	..	11p	12p	5p	..	115	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
South Sea Stock (div. 3¾ p. c.)	1002	1011	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	shut	shut	shut	shut	shut	shut	shut	shut	shut	shut	shut	101	..	..	..	..	..
Do. Old Anns. (div. 3 p. c.)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Do. new Anns. (div. 3 p. c.)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
3 per cent. Anns. 1751	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Bank Stock for ac. 16th March	218½	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
De. fo. opng. 18th April	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
3p. Cent. Cons. for ac. 16th Mar.	91½	91½	91½	91½	91½	91½	90½	91½	90½	91½	91½	91	91	91	91	91	90½	90½	90½	89½	89½	89½	89	88½	87½	86½	86
Do. for ac. 18th April	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
India Stock for ac. 18th April	100p	20p	20p	20p	16p	..	13p	16p	15p	12p	12p	12p	10p	14p	14p	13p	8p	8p	10p	7p	3p	par	2s	2p	2p	2p	2p
Ex. Bills £1000, 2d. per diem	18p	18p	18p	30p	20p	20p	20p	18p	18p	17p	12p	12p	16p	14p	14p	14p	12p	11p	5p	5p	5p	7p	7p	1s	2p	2p	2p
Ditto. £500 do.	18p	21p	12p	30p	20p	20p	20p	18p	18p	17p	12p	12p	16p	14p	14p	14p	12p	11p	5p	5p	5p	7p	7p	2p	2p	2p	2p
Ditto. £500 do.	18p	21p	12p	30p	20p	20p	20p	18p	18p	17p	12p	12p	16p	14p	14p	14p	12p	11p	5p	5p	5p	7p	7p	2p	2p	2p	2p

RAILWAY SHARES.

JOINT-STOCK BANKS.		LATEST PRICES.		FOREIGN STOCKS (LONDON MARKET).		COMPANY.		PAID UP		PRICES	
		London	6 pd.							Mar 29	Feb 24
Australasia	-	£40 sh.	£40	Brazilian Bonds, 5 per Cent.	-	-	-	95	-	-	55 1/2
British North American	-	50	0	Chilian Bonds, 6 per Cent.	-	-	-	99	-	-	51
Commercial of London	-	100	20	Danish 5 per Cent.	-	-	-	94	-	-	12 1/2
Colonial	-	100	25	Mexican 5 per Cent.	-	-	-	92 1/2	-	-	131
London and Westminster	-	100	20	Peruvian 4 1/2 per Cent.	-	-	-	92 1/2	-	-	94 1/2
London and Westminister	-	100	20	Portuguese Bonds, 4 per Cent.	-	-	-	93	-	-	93 1/2
London Joint Stock	-	50	10	Russian Bonds, 1822, 5 per Cent. in £ Ster.	-	-	-	82	-	-	81
Oriental Bank	-	25	0	Ditto, 4 1/2 per Cent.	-	-	-	72	-	-	96 1/2
Provincial of Ireland	-	100	25	Spanish Bonds 3 per Cent.	-	-	-	34	-	-	105 1/2
Ditto, New	-	10	10	Ditto, Passive	-	-	-	3	-	-	82
National of Ireland	-	50	35	Ditto, 3 per Cent. Deferred	-	-	-	16 1/2	-	-	64 1/2
National Provincial of England	-	100	32	(Dividends on the above payable in London.)	-	-	-	-	-	-	33 1/2
Ditto, New	-	20	10	Austrian 5 per Cent.	-	-	-	82	-	-	63
South Australian	-	25	0	Belgian Bonds, 4 1/2 per Cent.	-	-	-	84	-	-	79 1/2
Union of Australia	-	25	0	Dutch 2 1/2 per Cent.	-	-	-	84	-	-	50
Western Australian	-	25	0		-	-	-	84	-	-	43 1/2

The closing prices of the day are quoted.

FOREIGN STOCKS* (28th March.)

Brazilian Bonds, 5 per Cent.	-	-	95
Chilian Bonds, 6 per Cent.	-	-	99
Danish 5 per Cent.	-	-	94
Mexican 3 per Cent.	-	-	22½
Peruvian 4½ per Cent.	-	-	52½
Portuguese Bonds, 4 per Cent.	-	-	33
Russian Bonds, 1892, 5 per Cent. in 2 Sts.	-	-	82
Ditto, 4½ per Cent.	-	-	72
Spanish Bonds 3 per Cent.	-	-	34
Ditto, Passive	-	-	3
Ditto, 3 per Cent. Deferred	-	-	16½
(Dividends on the above payable in London.)			
Austrian 5 per Cent.	-	-	83
Belgian Bonds, 4½ per Cent.	-	-	84
Dutch 3½ per Cent.	-	-	81½
Ditto 4 per Cent. Loan	-	-	90
French 4½ per Cent., at Paris, Mar. 27, 1913	-	-	91½
Ditto 3 per Cent., ditto	-	-	85½

* **NORX**—Many of these prices at present are purely nominal, and business could not be transacted at the quotation.

[illegible]

	£10 sh.	£10 0 pd.	London and Provinces.
Australasia	50	50 0	64
British North American	100	20 0	32 1/2
Commercial of London	100	25 0	18
Colonial	100	20 0	34 1/2
London and Westminster	25	15 0	21
London Joint Stock	25	25 0	43
Oriental Bank	100	25 0	50
Provincial of Ireland	10	15 0	18 1/2
Ditto, New	50	22 10	23 1/2
National of Ireland	100	35 0	51
National Provincial of England	100	35 0	37
Ditto, New	25	25 0	60
South Australian	25	25 0	29
Union of Australia	50	50 0	32
Union of London	50	50 0	32
London and Counties	20	18 0	15
English Chartered of Australia	20	10 0	4
London, Scotch, and Australian Chartered	20	10 0	3
Bank of India, China, and Australia	20	20 0	39
New South Wales	20	20 0	39

Bank of England Weekly Returns.

Account, pursuant to the Act 7th and 8th of Victoria, cap. 32, for the Weeks ending as follows.

ISSUE DEPARTMENT.

	1854. Feb. 25th.	1854. Mar. 4th.	1854. Mar. 11th.	1854. Mar. 18th.
Notes issued.....	£ 29,515,460	£ 29,157,670	£ 28,641,070	£ 28,062,515
Government debt.....	11,015,100	11,015,100	11,015,100	11,015,100
Other securities	2,984,900	2,984,900	2,984,900	2,984,900
Gold coin and bullion	15,515,460	15,157,670	14,641,070	14,062,515
Silver bullion	—	—	—	—
	29,515,460	29,157,670	28,641,070	28,062,515

BANKING DEPARTMENT.

	1854. Feb. 25th.	1854. Mar. 4th.	1854. Mar. 11th.	1854. Mar. 18th.
Proprietors' capital.....	£ 14,553,000	£ 14,553,000	£ 14,553,000	£ 14,553,000
Reserve	3,383,249	3,713,915	3,718,298	3,730,877
Public deposits (including Ex- chequer, Savings' Banks, Com- missioners of National Debt, and Dividend Accounts)	2,732,345	2,741,851	2,899,597	3,678,817
Other deposits	11,830,574	11,244,639	10,887,390	11,305,393
Seven day and other bills	1,162,638	1,090,924	1,126,432	1,128,507
	33,591,806	33,344,329	33,184,653	34,396,584
Government securities (including Dead Weight Annuity)	11,757,704	11,751,555	11,747,728	11,844,700
Other securities	13,247,442	13,241,821	13,034,055	14,512,895
Notes	7,815,955	7,599,720	7,626,655	7,278,665
Gold and silver coin	770,705	751,233	755,615	760,324
	33,591,806	33,344,329	33,184,653	34,396,584

The Exchanges.

	Feb. 24th.	Mar. 3rd.	Mar. 10th.	Mar. 17th.
Amsterdam, short ..	11 16½	11 13½	11 13½	11 13½
Ditto 3 months..	11 16½	11 15½	11 15	11 15
Rotterdam, ditto ..	11 16½	11 15½	11 15½	11 15½
Antwerp, ditto ..	25 22½	25 20	25 17½	25 15
Brussels, ditto	25 22½	25 20	25 17½	25 15
Hamburgh, ditto....	13 5½	13 4½	13 3½	13 4½
Paris, short	25 0	25 0	25 0	24 97½
Paris, 3 months	25 32½	25 30	25 27½	25 27½
Marseilles, ditto	25 32½	25 32½	25 30	25 27½
Frankfort, ditto	118½	118½	118½	118½
Vienna, ditto.....	13 15	13 28	13 12	13 15
Trieste, ditto.....	13 15	13 30	13 15	13 16
Petersburgh, ditto ..	..	35½	35	34½
Madrid, ditto	50½	49½	50	50
Cadix, ditto	50½	50½	50½	50½
Leghorn, ditto	30 70	30 62½	30 65	30 65
Genoa, ditto.....	25 60	25 55	25 55	25 52½
Naples, ditto.....	41½	42	42½	42½
Palermo, ditto	126½	126½	126½	126½
Messina, ditto	127	127	126½	126½
Lisbon, 60 days' date	53½	53½	53½	53½
Oporto, ditto	53½	53½	53½	53½
Rio Janeiro, ditto ..	—	—	—	—

PRICES OF BULLION.

	Per Ounce.	Per Ounce.	Per Ounce.	Per Ounce.
Foreign Gold in Bars, (Standard).....	£3 17 9	£3 17 9	£3 17 9	£3 17 9
New Dollars	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 5 6½
Silver in Bars (Stand.)	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 5 1½

Bankers' Magazine Appendix.—April, 1854.

Bankers' Weekly Circulation Returns.

Pursuant to the Act 7 & 8 Victoria, c. 32; extracted from the LONDON GAZETTES.

PRIVATE BANKS.

NAME OF BANK.	Authorised Issue.	AVERAGE AMOUNT.			
		Jan. 28.	Feb. 4.	Feb. 11.	Feb. 18.
		£	£	£	£
1 Andover Bank	17,751	12,714	13,628	12,082	12,374
2 Ashford Bank	11,849	10,484	9,965	10,455	10,025
3 Aylsham Bank	5,854	4,543	4,518	4,559	4,524
4 Aylesbury Old Bank	48,461	32,850	32,496	30,820	30,070
5 Baldock and Biggleswade Bank ...	37,223	26,940	27,294	27,401	27,868
6 Barnstaple Bank	17,182	9,947	9,743	9,832	10,395
7 Basingstoke and Odiham Bank ...	24,730	19,624	19,681	19,753	19,337
8 Bedford Bank	34,218	34,321	33,665	32,859	33,030
9 Bewdley Bank	18,597	12,400	12,418	12,438	13,016
10 Bicester and Oxfordshire Bank ..	27,090	15,474	14,326	14,920	14,728
11 Birmingham Bank—Attwoods & Co.	23,695	24,166	23,444	23,738	23,324
12 Birmingham and Warwickshire Bk.	18,132	10,636	10,409	10,039	10,185
13 Blandford Bank	9,723	8,904	8,361	8,548	8,275
14 Boston Bank—Garfit and Co.	75,069	67,501	67,200	65,273	64,001
15 Boston Bank—Gee and Co.	15,161	14,459	14,578	14,777	13,463
16 Bridgewater Bank	10,028	6,318	6,570	6,566	6,124
17 Bristol Bank	48,277	38,875	38,813	38,015	37,504
18 Broseley and Bridgenorth Bank ...	26,717	18,734	18,531	18,788	18,839
19 Buckingham Bank	29,557	21,009	21,795	21,040	21,137
20 Bury and Suffolk Bank	82,362	76,765	75,349	72,550	70,349
21 Banbury Bank	43,457	37,997	35,892	34,392	34,367
22 Banbury Old Bank	55,153	25,699	24,565	24,689	25,368
23 Bath City Bank	4,572	4,088	3,897	3,287	3,462
24 Bedfordshire Leighton Buzzard Bk.	36,829	35,993	35,965	37,057	34,709
25 Birmingham Bk.—Taylor & Lloyds	38,816	37,139	37,051	37,689	36,620
26 Bradford Old Bank	12,676	11,540	11,426	11,591	11,465
27 Brecon Old Bank	68,271	61,899	59,322	62,834	61,154
28 Brighton Union Bank	33,794	27,434	28,708	27,373	26,294
29 Burlington and Driffield Bank	12,745	11,777	11,937	11,963	12,013
30 Bury St. Edmund's Bank	3,201	2,240	2,080	2,108	2,303
31 Cambridge Bk.—Mortlock & Co.	25,744	18,159	18,556	17,302	17,236
32 Cambridge and Cambridgeshire Bk.	49,916	45,648	44,440	44,278	44,438
33 Canterbury Bank	33,671	32,758	35,265	32,740	29,664
34 Carmarthen Bank	23,597	24,127	22,707	22,232	22,043
35 Chertsey Bank	3,436	3,276	3,440	3,180	2,849
36 Colchester Bank	25,082	18,613	17,505	16,798	16,447
37 Colchester and Essex Bank	48,704	33,870	31,978	31,270	30,375
38 Cornish Bank—Tweedy & Co. ...	49,869	48,134	48,235	49,635	48,214
39 Coventry Bank	12,045	7,445	7,298	6,881	6,445
40 City Bank, Exeter	21,527	20,835	20,608	21,451	21,502
41 Craven Bank—Alcocks & Co. ...	77,154	70,294	70,158	70,183	71,398
42 Cardiff Bank	7,001	6,038	5,709	6,352	6,073
43 Chepstow Old Bank	9,387	8,617	8,700	8,944	8,694
44 Derby Bank—Messrs. Evans	13,332	13,400	12,792	12,701	12,603
45 Derby Bank—Smith and Co.	41,304	38,228	37,636	37,418	38,720
46 Derby Old Bank	27,237	27,594	27,063	26,966	26,628
47 Devizes and Wiltshire Bank	20,674	9,612	9,312	9,000	9,460
48 Diss Bank	10,657	10,043	10,494	10,158	10,081
49 Doncaster Bank and Retford Bank	77,400	74,388	75,074	74,775	74,359
50 Darlington Bank ..	86,218	82,613	82,895	84,494	87,793

WEEKLY RETURNS OF BANKS OF ISSUE.

NAME OF BANK.	Authorised Issue.	AVERAGE AMOUNT.			
		Jan. 28.	Feb. 4.	Feb. 11.	Feb. 18.
51 Devonport Bank	£ 10,664	£ 10,015	£ 10,130	£ 9,569	£ 10,138
52 Dorchester Old Bank	48,807	49,507	49,438	47,474	48,369
53 East Cornwall Bk.—Robins & Co.	112,280	104,678	103,764	100,713	98,962
54 East Riding Bank—Bower & Co.	53,392	53,039	54,044	51,605	51,808
55 Essex Bk. & Bishops Stortford Bk.	69,637	45,015	43,905	44,395	45,785
56 Exeter Bank	37,894	28,069	27,720	27,035	27,772
57 Fakenham Bank	24,293	21,146	21,409	20,979	20,621
58 Faringdon Bk. & Bk. of Wantage	8,977	7,021	7,126	7,326	7,005
59 Farnham Bank	14,202	12,438	12,861	13,322	12,788
60 Faversham Bank	6,681	6,139	6,080	5,865	5,895
61 Godalming Bank	6,322	5,049	4,941	4,860	6,914
62 Guildford Bank	14,524	6,335	6,310	6,402	6,515
63 Grantham Bank—Hardy and Co.	30,372	28,176	27,128	26,657	25,238
64 Hastings Old Bank	38,038	36,792	36,222	35,291	34,180
65 Hertford City and County Bank	22,364	17,843	17,937	18,867	18,273
66 Hertford and Ware Bank	23,635	22,480	20,900	20,380	20,590
67 Hull & Kingston-upon-Hull Bank	19,979	18,724	19,418	20,011	20,859
68 Huntingdon Town & County Bank	56,591	48,709	48,835	48,580	47,302
69 Harwich Bank	5,778	5,624	5,277	5,484	5,259
70 Hemel Hempstead Bank	23,842	24,817	23,760	23,330	23,108
71 Hertfordshire, Hitchin Bank	38,764	36,595	36,072	35,335	35,279
72 Hereford, Ross, & Archenfield Bk.	27,625	22,650	23,188	24,033	24,690
73 Ipswich Bank	21,901	20,886	20,928	20,732	21,013
74 Ipswich & Needham Market Bank	80,699	64,899	63,895	62,964	62,040
75 Kentish Bank—Mercer & Co.	19,895	16,720	15,841	14,788	14,535
76 Kington and Radnorshire Bank	26,050	25,079	26,059	26,010	26,038
77 Knighton Bank	9,090	9,111	9,115	9,000	8,770
78 Knaresborough Old Bank	21,825	21,241	20,959	20,687	20,279
79 Kendal Bank	44,663	37,145	38,969	41,453	47,095
80 Kettering Bank	9,192	9,520	8,778	8,777	8,295
81 Lane End Staffordshire Bank	5,624	5,040	4,970	5,060	5,380
82 Leeds Bank	53,357	53,086	53,068	53,196	53,467
83 Leeds Union Bank	37,459	37,220	36,975	37,290	37,774
84 Leicester Bank	32,322	29,272	29,906	28,977	29,224
85 Lewes Old Bank	44,836	33,790	32,957	32,519	32,399
86 Lichfield Bank	22,786	12,705	12,406	11,930	11,983
87 Lincoln Bank	100,342	88,975	87,719	89,058	87,324
88 Llandovery Bank & Llandilo Bank	32,945	16,216	14,973	13,268	15,443
89 Loughborough Bank	7,359	7,693	7,685	7,395	6,588
90 Lynton Bank	5,038	3,892	4,211	4,745	4,564
91 Lynn Regis and Lincolnshire Bank	42,817	39,167	38,464	37,840	36,603
92 Lynn Regis and Norfolk Bank	13,917	11,600	10,286	9,834	9,957
93 Macclesfield Bank	15,760	14,900	15,495	15,823	16,024
94 Manningtree Bank	7,692	3,642	3,376	3,355	2,860
95 Merionethshire Bank	10,906	7,221	6,434	6,399	6,743
96 Miners' Bank	18,688	17,449	16,500	16,474	17,501
97 Monmouthshire Agricultural and Commercial Bank	29,335	28,155	28,889	28,366	28,306
98 Monmouth Old Bank	16,385	14,040	15,066	16,100	15,824
99 Newark Bank	28,788	25,375	25,944	26,394	26,848
100 Newark and Sleaford Bank	51,615	50,975	50,215	48,816	47,481
101 Newbury Bank	36,787	21,990	20,785	20,085	19,439
102 Newmarket Bank	23,098	17,913	17,231	17,312	16,923
103 Norwich Crown Bank and Norfolk and Suffolk Bank	49,671	48,220	48,560	47,361	47,910
104 Norwich and Norfolk Bank	75,372	72,282	72,273	71,692	69,519
105 Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Bank	10,866	9,310	9,298	9,158	8,843

WEEKLY RETURNS OF BANKS OF ISSUE.

NAME OF BANK.	Authorised Issue.	AVERAGE AMOUNT.			
		Jan. 28.	Feb. 4.	Feb. 11.	Feb. 18.
	£	£	£	£	£
106 Nuneaton Bank	5,898	3,315	3,461	3,738	3,535
107 Naval Bank, Plymouth	27,321	26,111	25,890	25,958	24,776
108 New Sarum Bk.—Everett & Smith	15,659	13,793	13,871	13,128	11,961
109 Nottingham Bank	31,047	30,295	30,557	31,218	30,673
110 Oswestry Bank	18,471	10,513	10,340	9,840	10,574
111 Oxford Old Bank	34,391	31,992	34,486	33,430	32,306
112 Old Bank, Tonbridge	13,183	10,422	10,335	9,815	9,470
113 Oxfordshire Witney Bank	11,852	9,588	9,553	9,754	10,101
114 Pease's Old Bank, Hull	48,807	47,128	47,265	47,024	47,422
115 Penzance Bank	11,405	10,119	10,395	10,840	10,559
116 Peterborough Bank—Yorke & Co.	12,545	9,012	9,315	8,957	8,366
117 Pembrokeshire Bank	12,910	12,700	13,165	12,656	12,501
118 Reading Bank—Simmonds & Co.	37,519	30,560	30,588	29,486	28,404
119 Reading Bk.—Stephens & Blandy	43,271	31,037	31,374	30,021	29,930
120 Richmond Bank, Richmond	6,889	6,230	6,410	6,739	6,747
121 Rochdale Bank	5,590	5,258	5,376	5,338	5,215
122 Rochester, Chatham, & Strood Bk.	10,480	9,075	9,156	8,525	8,741
123 Royston Bank	16,393	14,761	14,430	14,894	14,604
124 Rugby Bank	17,250	11,773	11,887	11,675	11,260
125 Rye Bank	29,864	16,130	15,375	14,822	14,750
126 Ross Old Bank, Herefordshire ...	4,420	4,444	3,986	4,346	3,959
127 Saffron Walden & North Essex Bk.	47,646	36,827	34,379	33,128	31,315
128 Salop Bank	22,338	16,165	15,953	15,730	15,226
129 Scarborough Old Bank	24,813	24,602	24,575	24,521	24,117
130 Shrewsbury Old Bank	43,191	41,875	41,753	43,290	42,527
131 Sittingbourne and Milton Bank...	4,789	2,810	2,507	2,474	2,529
132 Southampton Town & County Bk.	18,589	14,893	15,022	14,748	14,086
133 Southwell Bank	14,744	12,449	12,219	12,254	11,298
134 Southampton and Hampshire Bk.	6,770	3,975	3,921	3,864	3,729
135 Stone Bank	9,154	385	385	385	385
136 Stafford Old Bank	14,166	12,143	12,230	12,283	12,074
137 Stamford and Rutland Bank	31,858	31,422	29,154	27,894	26,920
138 Shrewsbury and Welsh Pool Bank	25,336	22,630	21,640	22,660	22,477
139 Taunton Bank	29,799	25,806	26,118	25,904	26,455
140 Tavistock Bank	13,421	10,628	10,922	11,677	11,645
141 Thornbury Bank	10,026	6,596	6,555	6,840	6,490
142 Tiverton and Devonshire Bank ...	13,470	9,567	9,742	9,388	9,628
143 Thrapstone and Kettering Bank..	11,559	12,006	12,076	11,273	10,638
144 Tring Bank and Chesham Bank..	13,531	13,317	12,881	12,551	12,316
145 Towcester Old Bank	10,801	8,605	8,665	8,223	8,378
146 Town and County of Poole Bk. and Ringwood and Poole Bk.	11,856	10,402	10,602	10,267	9,926
147 Union Bank, Cornwall	17,003	10,776	11,681	13,604	12,122
148 Uxbridge Old Bank	25,136	14,905	15,005	15,051	14,739
149 Wallingford Bank	17,064	9,052	8,995	8,923	9,085
150 Warwick and Warwickshire Bank	30,504	24,812	25,257	24,439	24,774
151 Wellington Bank, Somerset	6,528	3,324	3,243	3,415	3,833
152 West Riding Bank	46,158	46,012	46,533	46,017	43,268
153 Whitby Old Bank	14,258	14,256	14,166	14,210	14,267
154 Winchester, Alresford & Alton Bk.	25,892	21,140	20,426	20,453	20,809
155 Winchester and Hampshire Bank	6,737	5,630	5,117	4,770	4,597
156 Weymouth Old Bank	16,461	16,189	16,755	17,699	15,445
157 Wirksworth and Derbyshire Bk.	37,602	37,131	38,225	36,847	35,035
158 Wisbeach and Lincolnshire Bank	59,713	48,480	49,241	48,527	47,780
159 Wiveliscombe Bank	7,602	7,344	7,200	7,314	7,532
160 Wolverhampton Bk.—Goodricke and Co.	14,180	12,717	13,062	11,984	13,344
161 Worcester Bank	15,463	8,591	8,659	8,430	9,260

WEEKLY RETURNS OF BANKS OF ISSUE.

NAME OF BANK.	Authorised Issue.	AVERAGE AMOUNT.			
		Jan. 28.	Feb. 4.	Feb. 11.	Feb. 18.
	£	£	£	£	£
162 Worcester Old Bank	87,448	69,142	70,923	68,611	66,569
163 Worcestershire Bank	14,309	9,509	10,124	9,640	9,232
164 Wolverhampton Bank—R. & W. Fryer	11,867	12,135	11,226	11,376	11,285
165 Yarmouth and Suffolk Bank	53,060	48,973	48,332	44,967	43,015
166 Yarmouth, Norfolk, & Suffolk Bk.	13,229	12,674	12,014	11,615	11,766
167 York Bank	46,387	46,228	46,367	46,132	45,311

JOINT STOCK BANKS.

1 Bank of Westmoreland.....	12,225	8,975	9,396	10,161	12,085
2 Barnsley Banking Company	9,563	9,489	9,166	9,135	9,082
3 Bradford Banking Company	49,292	48,942	49,722	49,043	48,291
4 Bilston District Banking Company	9,418	7,585	8,351	8,314	10,332
5 Bank of Whitehaven.....	32,681	32,089	32,283	30,960	31,064
6 Bradford Commercial Banking Co.	20,084	20,245	19,699	19,763	19,602
7 Barton, Uttoxeter, and Staffordshire Union Bank	60,701	58,210	56,220	55,400	56,780
8 Chesterfield & N. Derbysh. Bk. Co.	10,421	10,380	10,599	9,957	10,116
9 Cumberland Union Banking Co....	35,395	34,075	36,148	34,769	33,665
10 Cheltenham & Glo'stershire Bk. Co.	12,786	10,120	10,513	10,485	10,260
11 Coventry and Warwickshire Bk. Co.	28,734	23,418	23,287	23,945	23,095
12 Coventry Union Banking Company	16,251	15,367	14,663	14,175	14,830
13 County of Gloucester Banking Co.	144,352	109,828	112,079	111,389	111,427
14 Carlisle & Cumberland Banking Co.	25,610	23,617	25,840	26,579	26,047
15 Carlisle City and District Bank ...	19,972	19,815	20,128	20,163	19,152
16 Dudley & West Bromwich Bk. Co.	37,696	37,589	38,212	36,296	36,731
17 Derby and Derbyshire Banking Co.	20,093	20,676	19,421	19,393	19,490
18 Darlington Dist. Joint Stock Bk. Co.	26,134	20,068	19,445	21,291	21,949
19 East of England Bank	25,025	21,900	23,077	23,408	23,960
20 Gloucestershire Banking Company	155,920	154,534	155,274	149,041	144,881
21 Halifax Joint Stock Bank.....	18,534	18,561	18,411	18,735	18,279
22 Huddersfield Banking Company...	37,354	34,861	33,637	32,085	38,576
23 Hull Banking Company	29,333	27,909	26,923	26,581	26,800
24 Halifax Commercial Banking Co...	13,733	14,125	13,900	13,314	13,160
25 Halifax & Huddersfield Union Bk.	44,137	44,304	42,248	41,567	43,387
26 Helston Banking Company	1,503	1,508	1,507	1,494	1,410
27 Herefordshire Banking Company..	25,047	17,278	17,805	18,380	19,478
28 Knaresborough and Claro Bk. Co.	28,059	28,083	26,995	27,150	27,729
29 Kingsbridge Joint Stock Bank	3,952	3,520	3,440	3,572	4,139
30 Lancaster Banking Company	64,311	57,563	60,252	63,268	64,740
31 Leeds Banking Company	23,076	23,999	23,870	23,855	20,567
32 Leicestershire Banking Company...	86,060	76,958	74,150	71,092	70,563
33 Lincoln and Lindsey Banking Co...	51,620	52,751	52,232	47,870	46,053
34 Leamington Priors and Warwickshire Bank	13,875	11,688	12,055	12,355	11,560
35 Ludlow and Tenbury Bank	10,215	10,195	10,210	9,841	9,764

WEEKLY RETURNS OF BANKS OF ISSUE.

NAME OF BANK.	Authorized Issue.	AVERAGE AMOUNT.			
		Jan. 28.	Feb. 4.	Feb. 11.	Feb. 18.
	£	£	£	£	£
36 Moore & Robinson's Notts. Bank...	35,813	34,539	33,848	34,687	35,145
37 Nottingham and Notts. Banking Co.	29,477	28,291	28,117	28,606	29,145
38 National Provincial Bk. of England	442,371	418,942	403,398	404,076	404,985
39 North Wilts Banking Company ...	63,939	46,990	46,815	44,504	45,416
40 Northamptonshire Union Bank ...	84,356	73,787	72,015	71,354	69,998
41 Northamptonshire Banking Co. ...	26,401	25,237	24,788	24,415	22,795
42 North and South Wales Bank.....	63,951	38,009	36,733	37,018	36,984
43 Pare's Leicestershire Banking Co...	59,300	51,037	50,636	50,597	51,346
44 Saddleworth Banking Company ...	8,122	2,259	2,373	2,590	2,378
45 Sheffield Banking Company.....	35,843	34,572	34,205	35,618	37,944
46 Stamford, Spalding & Boston Bk. Co.	55,721	51,121	49,161	46,495	46,510
47 Stuckey's Banking Company	356,976	357,500	354,933	350,297	346,842
48 Shropshire Banking Company.....	47,951	42,590	45,426	46,992	47,455
49 Stourbridge and Kidderminster Bk.	56,830	57,054	56,366	55,755	55,840
50 Sheffield and Hallamshire Bank ...	23,524	22,485	23,550	24,286	22,460
51 Sheffield & Rotherham Jt. Stock Bk.	52,496	52,661	51,238	52,755	51,907
52 Swaledale and Wensleydale Bank..	54,372	50,270	49,107	47,705	47,546
53 Storey and Thomas's Bank	9,714	9,447	9,344	9,874	10,068
54 Wolverhampton & Staffordsh. Bk..	35,378	32,386	32,035	36,845	36,825
55 Wakefield and Barnsley Union Bk.	14,604	13,184	13,469	13,320	12,785
56 Whitehaven Joint Stock Bank ...	31,916	27,877	30,319	30,170	29,535
57 Warwick and Leamington Bk. Co.	37,124	31,467	32,546	33,831	32,421
58 West of England and South Wales District Bank	83,535	77,904	76,918	78,893	76,991
59 Wilts & Dorset Banking Company	76,162	69,268	68,093	70,652	72,212
60 West Riding Union Banking Co....	34,029	34,256	32,830	31,439	32,916
61 Whitchurch and Ellesmere Bk. Co.	7,475	4,535	4,479	4,136	4,240
62 Worcester City and County Bk. Co.	6,848	4,862	5,538	5,375	4,955
63 York Union Banking Company ...	71,240	66,779	67,241	69,967	68,817
64 York City and County Banking Co.	94,695	92,046	91,096	90,503	89,156
65 Yorkshire Banking Company	122,532	115,815	120,808	125,850	118,765

Summary of the above Returns.

	Fixed Issues.	Jan. 28.	Feb. 4.	Feb. 11.	Feb. 18.
	£	£	£	£	£
167 Private Banks	4,616,609	3,942,131	3,919,252	3,880,147	3,842,268
65 Joint Stock Banks ..	3,325,857	3,077,395	3,058,583	3,053,431	3,044,426
232 Totals	7,942,466	7,019,526	6,977,835	6,933,578	6,886,694

Average Weekly Circulation of these Banks for the month ending February 18th:—

Private Banks	£3,895,950
Joint Stock Banks	3,058,459

Average Weekly Circulation of Private and Joint Stock Banks
ending as above £6,954,409

On a comparison of the above with the Returns for the Month ending 21st January
last, it shows—

A decrease in the Notes of Private Banks, of	£17,931
A decrease in the Notes of Joint Stock Banks, of	23,022

Total decrease on the Month..... £40,953

CIRCULATION RETURNS.

And as compared with the Month ending 19th February, 1853, it shows—

An increase in the Notes of Private Banks, of	£165,445
An increase in the Notes of Joint Stock Banks, of	87,377

Total increase, as compared with the same period of last year .. £252,622

The following appears to be the comparative state of the circulation, as regards the fixed issues—

The Private Banks are below their fixed issues	£720,659
The Joint Stock Banks are below their fixed issues	267,398

Total BELOW the fixed issues..... £988,057

Irish and Scotch Circulation Returns.

Average Circulation, and Coin held by the IRISH and SCOTCH BANKS during the four weeks ending Saturday, the 18th day of February, 1854.

IRISH BANKS.

NAME OF BANK.	Authorised Circulation.	Average Circulation during Four Weeks, ending as above.			Average Amount of Gold & Silver Coin held during Four Weeks ending as above.
		£5 and upwards.	Under £5.	Total.	
	£	£	£	£	£
Bank of Ireland.....	3,738,428	1,889,700	1,336,200	3,225,900	779,067
Provincial Bank of Ireland	927,667	353,263	689,019	1,042,282	272,347
Belfast Bank	281,611	58,592	475,320	533,913	294,322
Northern Bank	243,440	37,408	251,279	298,688	73,732
Ulster Bank	311,079	48,247	480,654	528,902	238,663
National Bank of Ireland...	761,757	406,055	674,690	1,080,745	424,520
Carrick-on-Suir Nat. Bank	24,084	10,981	14,571	25,552	4,643
Clonmel National Bank ...	66,428	27,250	31,474	58,724	11,983
TOTALS (Irish Banks) ...	6,354,494	2,831,496	3,963,207	6,794,706	2,099,277

SCOTCH BANKS.

Bank of Scotland	300,485	131,593	254,353	385,946	149,879
Royal Bank of Scotland ...	183,000	72,474	119,655	192,129	53,355
British Linen Company	438,024	187,421	368,705	496,126	160,249
Commercial Bk. of Scotland	374,880	173,934	331,104	505,039	178,542
National Bank of Scotland..	297,024	109,767	223,236	333,003	88,299
Union Bank of Scotland and Banking Com. in Aberdeen	415,690	182,692	339,276	521,968	176,840
Edinburgh & Glasgow Bk...	136,657	64,991	92,549	157,540	52,752
Aberdeen Town and Co. Bk.	70,133	34,130	65,969	100,099	34,748
North of Scotland Bk. Co...	154,319	81,751	106,747	188,498	46,849
Dundee Banking Company	33,451	14,130	23,288	37,418	7,475
Eastern Bank of Scotland...	33,636	18,021	23,865	41,886	12,982
Western Bank of Scotland..	337,938	158,744	364,232	522,976	262,935
Clydesdale Banking Co. ...	104,028	45,447	101,392	146,839	57,787
City of Glasgow Bank	72,921	75,248	97,603	172,851	112,879
Caledonian Banking Co. ...	53,434	21,220	47,679	68,899	23,007
Perth Banking Company...	38,656	13,713	31,658	45,371	15,216
Central Bank of Scotland...	42,933	20,718	36,803	57,521	21,791
TOTALS (Scotch Banks)...	3,087,209	1,405,994	2,568,114	3,974,109	1,455,585

CIRCULATION RETURNS.

SUMMARY OF IRISH & SCOTCH RETURNS TO FEBRUARY 18, 1854.

The Returns of Circulation of the Irish and Scotch Banks for the four weeks ending 18th February, when added together, give the following as the average weekly circulation of these banks during the past month, viz. :—

Average Circulation of the Irish Banks... £6,794,706
Average Circulation of the Scotch Banks 3,974,109

Total Average Circulation of these Banks
for the past month £10,768,815

On comparing these amounts with the Returns for the month ending 21st January last, they show—

Increase in the Circulation of Irish Banks £254,977
Decrease in the Circulation of Scotch Banks 24,017

Total increase on the month £230,960

And as compared with the month ending February 19th, 1853, they show—

Increase in the Circulation of Irish Banks £1,113,268
Increase in the Circulation of Scotch Banks 444,124

Total increase on the year 1,557,392

The fixed issues of the Irish and Scotch Banks at the present time are given in the *Banking Almanac*, as follows :—

8 Banks in Ireland, allowed to issue... £6,354,494
18 Banks in Scotland, allowed to issue ... 3,087,209

26 Banks in all, allowed to issue..... £9,441,703

The following appears, therefore, to be the comparative state of the circulation :—

Irish Banks are above their fixed issue .. £440,212
Scotch Banks are above their fixed issue 886,900

Total above the fixed issue £1,327,112

The amounts of Gold and Silver held at the head offices of the several Banks, during the past month, have been as follows :—

Gold and Silver held by the Irish Banks £2,099,377
Gold and Silver held by the Scotch Banks 1,435,585

Total of Gold and Silver Coin £3,534,862

Being an increase of £128,044 on the part of the Irish Banks, and a decrease of £12,100 on the part of the Scotch Banks, on the several amounts held by them during the preceding month.

CIRCULATION OF THE UNITED KINGDOM TO FEBRUARY 18, 1854.

The following is the state of the Note Circulation of the United Kingdom, for the month ending the 18th February, 1854.

Circulation of Notes for the Month ending February 18th, as compared with the previous month :

	Jan. 21.	Feb. 18.	Increase.	Decrease.
Bank of England	£21,659,595	£22,167,217	£507,622	—
Private Banks	3,913,881	3,895,950	—	£17,931
Joint Stock Banks	3,081,481	3,058,459	—	23,022
Total in England	28,654,957	29,121,626	507,622	40,953
Scotland	3,998,126	3,974,109	—	24,017
Ireland	6,539,729	6,794,706	254,977	—
United Kingdom.....	39,192,812	39,890,441	762,599	64,970

The comparison of the month ending February 9th, 1853, with the month ending February 18th, 1854, shows a *decrease* in the Bank of England circulation of £348,942, an *increase* in Private Banks of £165,245, and an *increase* in Joint Stock Banks of £87,377; being a total *decrease* in England of £96,320; while in Scotland there is an *increase* of £444,124; and in Ireland an *increase* of £1,113,268. Thus showing that the month ending 18th February, as compared with the same period last year, presents a *decrease* of £96,320 in England, and an *increase* of £1,461,072 in the *United Kingdom*.

The return of Bullion in the Bank of England, for the month ending February 18th, gives an aggregate amount in both departments of £16,226,684. On a comparison of this with the Return for the month ending January 21st, there appears to be an *increase* of £264,342; and a *decrease* of £2,388,472 as compared with the same period last year.

The stock of specie held by the Banks in Scotland and Ireland during the month ending 18th February, was £3,554,862; being an *increase* of £115,944 as compared with the return of the previous month, and an *increase* of £848,885 as compared with the corresponding period last year.

THE BANKERS' MAGAZINE,

AND

Journal of the Money Market.

MAY, 1854.

GOVERNMENT FINANCIAL DIFFICULTIES.

MR. GLADSTONE has been compelled, at the last moment, to come into the market as a borrower. After beating about the bush, and endeavouring to persuade the public as well as himself that the finances of the country were in a healthy state, he has suddenly abjured his personal conviction and issued proposals for a loan. There is something very specious in the manner in which the Chancellor has framed his notification; but, notwithstanding the attempted endeavour to constitute an exchange of Exchequer-bills into Exchequer-bonds as its principal feature, it is perfectly evident that money is an essential ingredient in the transaction.

We are not disposed to be captious with the terms on which it is proposed to accept tenders for £6,000,000 of Exchequer-bonds, because, if they meet with favour, and produce the required assistance, the Government will be partially enabled to surmount the difficulties into which they have been brought by the failure of the South Sea conversion scheme. It is, however, not quite clear that either Exchequer-bills will be so readily exchanged, or capital so freely subscribed, as it appears to be presumed in some quarters, the doubt experienced being with regard to the price at which the new securities are to be taken. Without looking too critically for the moment at this part of the subject, we may just advert to the antecedents of the proposed operation.

A great disposition is manifested by the supporters of the minister to attribute his unfavourable situation to the enormous increase in expenditure occasioned through the outbreak of hos-

tilities, while attempts are sedulously made to blink the fact that an adverse influence was created by his early financial experiments. Now, without going the length of some of our daily contemporaries, and visiting the Chancellor of the Exchequer with the severe penalty of being responsible for the whole of the disturbance succeeding those unfortunate measures, we must admit that we cannot conscientiously absolve him from not having accelerated the movement. Allowing that a deficient harvest, and a continuous drain of specie have aggravated the condition of the general money market, and that prospects have been further unfavourably affected by the commencement of a European war, we must not forget that the acts of Mr. Gladstone, and those alone, have principally conspired to interfere with his own position.

It was not to be supposed that, having reduced the balances in the Exchequer to so low an ebb by the payments he was bound to make, in accordance with his original stipulations to the dissentient proprietors of South Sea stock and annuities, he could immediately make available to the extent he required the accommodation which the bank directors usually place at the command of the Government. In a period of plethora there would have been little difficulty in affording that assistance always so readily granted in ordinary occasions; but with discounts at 15 per cent., and a good employment for capital, the measure of accommodation could not be greatly extended. The "deficiency" bill system, unobjectionable when resorted to in a limited degree, promised to swell to inordinate proportions in the declining state of the Exchequer, and it could not therefore be countenanced.

The exaggerated views that prevailed out of doors with respect to the amount of assistance periodically afforded by the bank have been properly corrected by Mr. Gladstone; but while he showed that the revenue receipts progressively reduced the total to a *minimum*, he could not demonstrate that there was any hope of its final liquidation. His persistence in endeavouring to set at defiance the warnings of practical men was consequently out of place, and merited the stinging reproofs which were so justly levelled at him. It would have shown much better sense on his part, had he, instead of pertinaciously resisting the advice tendered, met the remonstrance in a spirit of candour, and with less reluctance concluded a peace with his opponents. Their victory is now the greater, because, after begging the question, he has been necessitated to adopt, in an indirect manner, the course so frequently suggested.

But we may be told that this financial operation cannot be, strictly speaking, termed a loan, inasmuch as it provides for a

transfer of one security into another, with an option for a partial contribution in money, the security issued being redeemable at par at a specified date. Ingenious as the arrangement is, by which an attempt is made to throw dust in the eyes of the public to induce them to believe that its chief object is the relief of the Exchequer-bill market, the announced acceptance of offers in capital betrays at once the disagreeable secret. Whatever amount may under these circumstances be raised, it will be applicable to the purposes of Government, and bearing, as it must, a fixed and a higher rate of interest than is allowed on other national securities, the general charge on the public debt will be proportionably increased. The transaction in both cases may turn out successful. In the first place, it may reduce considerably the floating total of the unfunded debt, and, in the next, the money subscribed may be sufficient to recruit the exhausted balances of the Exchequer. There are, however, various contingencies to be taken into consideration before the probability of such a result can be admitted.

The experiment has before been tried to bring Exchequer bonds into circulation, with what effect the result of the conversion scheme of 1853 has exhibited. Of all the securities offered by the Chancellor, they were apparently the most popular when his plans were originally propounded, but in the returns at the termination of October they figured for a purely nominal sum. Is it probable, then, that if, when first introduced at a period of less excitement and doubt than at present, they were so thoroughly neglected, they will at once suddenly spring into favour, to the exclusion of other descriptions of negotiable property? The general terms of interest and redemption have been greatly modified, but the circumstances of the nation have also greatly changed since the security itself was proposed to be constituted. As a medium for investment among second and third class capitalists, it cannot be denied that they possess certain attractions, and that depositors in savings banks, whose accumulations reach a *maximum* point, may adopt them, not alone on account of receiving a higher rate of interest, but because they are truly what they represent to be, viz., Government securities. The facility of transfer, and the repayment at par, are features which will also give them a proportion of precedence in many circles; but it is scarcely possible, except in the case of Assurance companies, that a large amount of the £6,000,000 will be taken by leading capitalists.

Compared with railway debentures, which are not legally available for the employment of trust moneys, they will, without doubt, be brought into preferable requisition; but the difference of interest on the former, although their purchase or sale may

be attended with more stringent formalities, will continue to maintain the preference given them by numerous investors over Consols or any other securities. The public, although inclined to regard with a very favourable eye the guarantee of the Government in all financial transactions, have not completely discarded the advantages offered by an outlay of capital for fixed periods in the bonds and debentures of our leading railway companies. Other classes of shares likewise present favourable returns for those who possess property for investment, viz., those connected with English or Colonial joint-stock banks, which ranking in many instances at a denomination under £50, absorb a considerable surplus of ordinary surplus means.

Looking at the other side of the question, it remains to be seen whether our principal capitalists will readily exchange Exchequer-bills into Exchequer-bonds. The two securities stand in this situation: Exchequer-bills are repayable every twelve months, and their rate of interest, to preserve the credit of the Government, must be regulated by the value of money in the open market. The present rate is 3 per cent. and a considerable quantity, say, £7,000,000 are repayable in June. The Exchequer-bonds are to be issued, redeemable at par for fixed periods, with a rate of interest of $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. Now, the real point to be solved is this, will capitalists, with the altered prospects of financial affairs—the tendency of money being decidedly towards a further advance—consent to exchange their securities, by which, instead of possessing what may be considered an immediate command over their resources, they agree to lock them up for an extended term, without an equitable benefit in the shape of secured return? Of course a great deal will depend upon the price at which the Exchequer-bonds shall be issued. If, as is generally surmised, the Chancellor shall attempt to drive a bargain for par, there will be a doubt whether he will obtain the amount he requires. If, on the contrary, a moderate discount is submitted to, the greater will be his chances of success. With regard to the redemption clauses of the contract, the position of the Government will be less onerous than under other circumstances, the final date being fixed in 1860, when upwards of £3,200,000 of annual burden in the character of annuities will terminate.

No objection can be raised to the measures adopted for the simultaneous publication of Mr. Gladstone's notification in London and the provinces; and it is desirable that in such negotiations all classes shall feel that their interests and condition are studied. But in the discussion that has grown out of the proceedings of the Chancellor, some allusion has been made to the absence of a friendly feeling between himself and the

Bank directors. It has been suggested that the latter have acted in an uncourteous and ungenerous manner in refusing the Government the assistance necessary to get over the temporary difficulty of small Exchequer balances. This we can scarcely believe, since Mr. Gladstone's own propriety would not lead him into collision with those authorities, while they themselves would avoid, if possible, any breach with the financial representative. As to the intimation of the desirableness of bringing within the control of the State the whole of the privileges connected with our paper currency, there will be ample opportunity for discussing the question before the final expiration of the Bank charter.

THE SOUTH SEA COMPANY.

THE majority of the proprietors of the South Sea Company have sanctioned the bill proposed by the court for winding up the original undertaking, and organizing another to carry out the administration of trusts. Including the votes of all parties, direct and indirect representatives, the sub-governor and his colleagues may felicitate themselves upon having gained a decided victory, the numbers having been six to one in their favour.

But the question is, will they, after all, succeed in carrying their favourite project? We think not. The Incorporated Law Society continue their resistance to the measure, and although it has been passed by the House of Commons, its reception will be far less friendly in the House of Lords.

What will the governors say if they meet the powerful opposition of Lord St. Leonards, in addition to private petitions from individual holders of stock? Surely they will not then fancy that it is as easy a task to carry with them the voice of the second estate of the realm, as that of their constituents in Threadneedle Street.

Pending the ultimate decision of Parliament, the court continue to exercise their petty functions as a kind of deputy Bank of England, without the intervention or expressed authority of their proprietors. They take Exchequer-bills from the Chancellor of the Exchequer, in part payment of the claims of South Sea Annuities, thinking it "a good financial operation;" they make advances on the corporate stock of the company, at rates of interest fluctuating between 3 and 4 per cent., to assist those who may require accommodation previously to a final dissolu-

tion, while to rid themselves of obnoxious proprietors, they coolly offer to purchase the amount of his interest at the fixed rate of 115.

The "*beau rôle*" which the sub-governor is enacting, would lead many people to believe that he is positively qualifying for the supposed appointment at the head of a national bank, if one be really in contemplation, as was recently insinuated. For the last half-century the governors have not exercised such important functions as these, and under the immediate direction of their superiors they have aroused themselves from a lethargy which had apparently become inherent through the inutility of their vocation. The reason for this is plain; it is now desirable to exhibit financial aptitude and general business talent, to secure attention to their interests, the late dormant position of the whole body being small recommendation for any new appointment. We shall wait patiently to see the realisation of their anticipations.

On the late occasion,* when the proprietors were called together, the sub-governor detailed to them the following rough statement of the assets and liabilities of the corporation:—

ASSETS.					
Cash in hand	...	...	...	...	£140,252
Exchequer-bills (actual amount, irrespective of interest, premium, or discount)	...	...	...	...	2,640,000
India Bonds (stated on the same terms)	...	...	...	...	100,000
3¼ per Cents. £150,000 (valued at yesterday's price and ex. div., viz., 86)	...	...	...	...	129,000
3 per Cent. Reduced £5,000 (valued at yesterday's price, viz., 85½)	...	...	...	...	4,275
3 per Cent. Consols, £50 18s. 1d. (a small nominal amount, valued at yesterday's price, viz., 86½)	...	...	...	...	44
Loans repayable with interest (money advanced in the shape of loans upon stock, generally at the rate of 3 per cent.)	...	...	...	...	197,107
Old South Sea Annuities to be received on the 5th of April	...	...	...	...	113,488
Due to the company by the Government, in reference to the 3 per Cent. Annuities of 1751, and Old South Sea Annuities	...	...	...	...	600
Value of the company's premises at the old estimate	...	...	...	...	25,000
Making a total of £3,349,000, or in round numbers	...	...	...	...	£3,350,000

* This meeting was held on the 30th March.

LIABILITIES.

Half-year's dividend on old South Sea Annuities, due the 5th of April	£41,078
Unclaimed bonds	17,095
Unclaimed dividends on South Sea Stock ...	25,000
Unclaimed dividends on South Sea Annuities ...	10,000
Arrears of taxes, &c., applicable to 1853 ...	200
Liabilities on the amount in the hands of the company not yet claimed on New South Sea Annuities, 1751	175,934
Making a total of £269,000, or in round numbers	£270,000

"Taking the assets," he said, "at £3,350,000, and the liabilities at £270,000, the amount remaining was £3,080,000. It was a satisfactory feature that the assets were principally such as might be described as money assets, and not liable to fluctuation, the only stock held being about £150,000. In dealing with the surplus of £3,080,000, the purchases of South Sea stock made by the court from trustees and others would have to be taken into account, and, these having reached £1,038,518, the amount represented by proprietors interested in a final distribution, would be £2,624,265. The result was, that the assets would yield a little over £117 per £100 stock. The only expenses would be those incurred in winding up the company, which were likely to be very small." In answer to questions, the sub-governor intimated that the amount set down for unclaimed dividends, viz., £42,000 (and half of which has probably been unrepresented for nearly a century), will have to be retained, in case claimants shall come forward and establish their right to payment. The whole sum, making allowance for £10,000 to be arranged, does not exceed £1 per cent. on the capital of £3,000,000, and hence it is considered a question of small importance. The next half-yearly dividend will be at the rate of those previously declared; and the directors considered it gratifying that, although they had had to contend with great difficulties, they had been able to bring the assets into such order. With regard to Exchequer-bills, no loss had yet been incurred. They had been taken at 3*s.* 6*d.* per cent., as an investment suitable to the employment of the company's funds, at a period when it was considered advisable to avoid risk. Although the premium of these securities had since reached 20*s.*, it would not have been easy to dispose of them; while a further reason for holding them was, that they would, at a fixed date, if the money were required, be repaid at par. Of the £2,700,000 originally taken, £60,000 only had been sent into the market; £50,000 having been sold at 18*s.*, and £10,000 at 5*s.* premium.

We do not find fault with the statement in its general features, although we must confess that we entertain a strong opinion that the proprietors should have been consulted before any operations connected with the acceptance of Exchequer-

bills from the Government, or advances upon, or the purchase of stock had been determined. The collective opinions of the governors may be sound enough, but action in the matter would have been, we should have thought, more palatable had it been ratified by the authority of a general court.

Those of the proprietors who have disposed of their stock at 115, will learn to their sorrow, that through the precipitancy of this movement, they have sacrificed about two per cent. Perhaps, however, this will not prove eventually a great loss, if, from the self-willed management of the sub-governor and his associates, the winding up of the effete corporation shall be much longer delayed. One word only is required in explanation of the assets. The large amount of Exchequer-bills held, it cannot be supposed will be convertible into money at an important profit, while India bonds will, probably, not for some little time to come, obtain a market, except at a discount.

CONSOLS AT EIGHTY-FIVE.

IN periods of speculative excitement individuals are always to be found willing to assume extraordinary risks when there is the prospect of gaining a commensurate profit. The doctrine of chances, although not philosophically studied by those who engage in this description of adventure, guides them, in a measure widening the course they pursue; and if their operations are not at all times attended with success, they are often accompanied by contingencies which afford them the opportunity of escaping with credit, even at the moment when they seem likely to be most involved. Although these transactions cannot be strictly brought within the pale of legitimate business, they are often extensively followed out, not alone with the view of securing the gain supposed to be presented, but also of supporting opinions entertained in connection with particular events.

Risks of the character such as are described, appear properly to be associated with underwriting, and when considered in relation to the detention or loss of vessels (for instance, the disappearance of the *President*, or the still more recent case of the *Madagascar*, which insured up to the rate of 70 and 75 per cent., has never yet been heard of). they certainly pertain to the ordinary transactions of mercantile life. It, however, occasionally occurs that when prospects are unfavourable, and it is presumed doubtful eventualities may arise, the principle of insuring is carried to a much greater length than many will be inclined to believe. This will be, in all probability, admitted

when circumstances are narrated which have taken place in connection with the present war.

A very wealthy capitalist, whose operations comprise every species of speculation, having from the earliest date of the Eastern question expressed a confident opinion that it would be arranged without actual hostilities, was induced, at the close of the year, to "back" his position by "insuring" the price of Consols. The quotation of this security then ranged between 93 and 94, and the terms upon which he is understood to have concluded the contract, were these:—He accepted a payment of from £5 to £10 per £100, for an amount, it is alleged, which brought his risk to £10,000, that the price between that particular date and the 8th of April, would not descend to 85. The parties who opened the principal policies with this gentleman were Greek merchants, and they, maintaining a strong belief in the prospect of a European war, waited patiently the progress of affairs.

In the meanwhile the fluctuations in the market, as the public well know, were excessive. First, the announcement of the probability of the conclusion of a pacific negotiation, carried quotations up; then they were as suddenly depressed by the unfavourable aspect of relations between the several powers, terminating in the withdrawal of Baron Brunow from London, and M. Kissileff from Paris. Gradually, but steadily, the price of Consols at length receded. The quotation of 90 was touched, subsequently they were on the verge of 89.

On March the 24th the price was heavy at 88½; in the expectation that war would be immediately declared. On the 28th of March the momentous fact was intimated, through the medium of a gazette extraordinary, and the following morning Consols went to 86. All was now anxiety in the special circles alluded to. At the opening of the market, on the 30th March, the panic feeling of the previous day was apparent, and in the midst of the general business, a transaction was recorded at 85½. Here the fall was checked, a recovery took place, and before the close 85½ was the fair quotation. Thus it will be perceived the point of 85 was approached within a fraction, and as between that time and the 8th of April, a further favourable reaction has taken place, the capitalist who took the risk, has proved the gainer; only, however, escaping through the margin of an eighth per cent.

As usual, when transactions like these become a topic of public gossip, a considerable amount of fiction is associated with a small proportion of truth. It is, however, stated that, before regular business commenced at the Stock Exchange on the 30th, one or two bargains took place at 85 and 84½. Whether this be correct it is difficult to ascertain, but it is nevertheless probable, recollecting the excitement that temporarily prevailed, with

regard to future prospects of hostilities, and the apprehension that the bank directors might be induced to make a further advance in the rate of discount. But although this might have been the case, the price of 85 not having been quoted during the hours of business, it would not have interfered with this singular bargain, the understanding being that it should be determined by the quotations in the official list.

Many who have calculated the probabilities of the event, have regarded with interest the result of the operation. Not a few of the habitual speculators profess to have seen their way to making thousands, if they had been interested; but it is questionable whether the parties immediately concerned have, to protect themselves, adopted the alternatives which have been pointed out. In the position of the capitalist who insured the price of Consols, it is said his safe plan, when he perceived the check to the rapid descent, would have been to have purchased on the turning market, and netted additional profits; while, in the other case, a sale of ordinary magnitude would have, it is alleged, further depressed prices, and brought the affair to a satisfactory conclusion, for those who had paid the 5 and 10 per cent.

To have resorted to such specious means of influencing the market, would not have been creditable to any parties; and it is not believed that they have been followed out. Doubtful in their legitimate scope as these transactions are, they would be rendered more objectionable if extraneous measures were made available for forcing an indirect issue. It is understood that the capitalist referred to has some minor transactions of a similar character open, but in this latter instance the period extends to May. The great event, however, so far as the £10,000 risk is involved, has passed, and, notwithstanding the discouraging appearance of the war question, Consols have not even yet declined to the wished-for point of 85.

MERCANTILE SUSPENSIONS.

THERE have been a few additional suspensions since the appearance of the *Bankers' Magazine* for April, but they have been principally connected with France and the North of Europe. Only two worthy of notice have occurred in London. We affix their names in regular order :—

- March .. Moller and Desborough, London, foreign exchange brokers.
- " Leroy, Chabrol and Co., Paris, bankers.
- April .. S. Dunlop, Rotterdam, merchant.
- " C. R. Moate, London, metal broker.
- " J. Stephenoff, St. Petersburg, cotton dealer.

April ..	M. J. Shaposhnikoff, St. Petersburg, merchant.
"	M. Jensen, Riga, broker.
"	S. Alexeyeff, Moscow, merchant.
"	T. Mathias, Moscow, merchant.
"	C. Kyber, Moscow, merchant.

With respect to the liabilities of Moller and Desborough, it is not believed they are large. The liabilities of Mr. C. R. Moate reach £56,000, of which £20,000 only are secured. The ultimate assets depend on the realisation of a large disputed claim. The creditors have agreed to wind up the estate under inspection. Leroy, Chabrol and Co., of Paris, have been declared bankrupts. The establishment was supported by a joint-stock proprietary under the French law, and the creditors will in all probability obtain 20s. in the pound. The liabilities are estimated at 36,352,301f., and the assets at 39,684,474f., showing a favourable balance of 3,332,173f. The failure of S. Dunlop, of Rotterdam, it is said, is for a considerable amount, but it will effect few foreign houses. In the case of the Russian suspensions little information has transpired, with the exception that they individually involve large liabilities.

FAILED FIRMS.

WE noticed, in the *Bankers' Magazine* for April, the suspension of Mr. Thos. M'Gregor, warehouseman, of Messrs. Warwick, Harrison and Warwick, shawl manufacturers and silk mercers, both carrying on business in Cheapside, and of Messrs. B. Elkin and Sons, West Indian and Australian merchants. We are now enabled to present our readers with the balance sheets of these three firms, and the particulars of the prospects they hold out in connection with their ultimate liquidation. The meetings of creditors having taken place they will be detailed in the order in which they occurred.

THE ESTATE OF MESSRS. WARWICK, HARRISON AND WARWICK.

A meeting of the creditors of Messrs Warwick, Harrison and Warwick, who failed on the 15th of March, was held at the Guildhall Coffee House on the 23rd of March, when the annexed balance sheet, prepared by Messrs. Parrington and Ladbury, was presented. It will be noticed that the estate shows debts and liabilities amounting to £37,888, while the assets at cost price reach £37,372. An offer of 16s. in the pound was made and accepted, the instalments to be liquidated at three, six, or nine months, with security for the final payment, and the partners it is expected will be able to carry through the arrangement. The house, it will be noticed, was engaged in bill transactions with Mr. Thomas M'Gregor.

Dr.—To creditors, as per list	£34,237	5	1	
Less debts of creditors holding securities	2,257	16	11	
				£31,979 8 2
To liability on bills drawn by Messrs. T. M'Gregor and Co., upon and accepted by the firm ..		2,431	4	0
(The firm has received value on these bills to the extent of £1,525 <i>ls.</i> 6 <i>d.</i>)				
To liability on bills drawn or accepted by the firm, amounting to £5,646 <i>ls.</i> , for which the firm has received value		2,542	16	1
To liability on a bill accepted by the firm for a separate debt of Mr. Charles Warwick ..		898	10	7
To liability on bills receivable discounted, £6,337 3 <i>s.</i> 4 <i>d.</i> of which it is supposed will be proved on this estate			36	17 5
				<u>£37,888 16 3</u>
Cr.—By stock in trade, at cost	£25,001	5	10	
By ditto, at printers, &c.	568	3	9	
				£25,569 9 7
By book debts, good		10,227	11	0
By ditto, bad, £171 8 <i>s.</i> , estimated at		53	12	11
By cash in hand and at bankers		147	3	0
By bills on hand		80	19	1
By furniture		278	4	3
By leases and fixtures of premises, Nos. 131, 132, 133, Cheapside, held for unexpired terms of 1½, 11½, and 19½ years respectively, at a total rental of £530 per annum, cost	£3,505	3	1	
Mortgaged to the Provident Life Office for	2,016	13	4	
				1,488 9 9
				<u>37,845 9 7</u>
Less rent, salaries, &c.				473 2 11
				<u>£37,372 6 8</u>

THE ESTATE OF MR. THOMAS M'GREGOR.

A meeting of the creditors of Mr. Thomas M'Gregor, woollen ware-houseman, who failed on the 14th of March, was held on the 28th of March, when the subjoined statement, prepared by Messrs. Parrington and Ladbury, accountants, was presented. A proposal of 6*s.* 8*d.* in the pound, by instalments spreading over twelve months, was unanimously accepted, and a committee was appointed to inspect the estate, with the view of determining whether security shall be required for the final payment. The losses of Mr. M'Gregor by adverse speculations in English stock, railway and other securities, it is alleged, have amounted to a large sum, while his accommodation bill transactions,

which doubtless include some of these, also represent a considerable amount. It will be noticed in his accounts that operations in "mining shares" are distinctly alluded to.

Dr.—To trade creditors	£31,442	3	9	
To cash creditors	£4,153	3	0	
Less secured	3,925	0	3	
		228	2	9
To liability on bills receivable, amounting to £26,253 1s. 6d., of which it is supposed will be returned	6,187	19	7	
Less cash held by a creditor	167	4	7	
		6,020	15	0
To liability on bills accepted for mutual accommo- dation of T. M'Gregor and of other parties, £11,288 10s. 5d., of which will be claimed*..	10,633	16	5	
To liability in respect of bills accepted for mining shares, &c., £11,603 18s. 11d., of which will be claimed	2,506	19	8	
To liability on bills accepted wholly for T. M'Gre- gor's accommodation	2,778	12	4	
To bills accepted on account of losses	3,522	1	9	
	£57,132	11	8	
Cr.—By stock in trade, at cost	£15,744	7	4	
By book debts, good	6,566	18	7	
By ditto, bad, £3,568 17s. 5d., estimated at ..	413	2	4	
By furniture	350	0	0	
By fixtures	498	6	0	
By bills in hand, £3,712 3s. 9d., estimated at ..	2,145	5	10	
By cash in hand	604	4	10	
By leases of premises, 149 and 150, Cheapside, and sundry shares, and life policy held by a cre- ditor, and supposed to cover his claim, as per contra, £3,925 0s. 3d.				
By lease of premises, Holly Lodge, held for 49 years, at £23, cost £60.				
By shares in bank, &c.	170	0	0	
	26,492	4	11	
Less rent, taxes, and salaries	676	7	10	
	£25,815	17	1	

THE ESTATE OF MESSRS. B. ELKIN AND SONS.

A numerous meeting of the creditors of Messrs. B. Elkin and Son, lately engaged in the West Indian and Australian trade, who failed on the 20th of March, was held on the 17th, and, by adjournment, on the 25th of April, Mr. Byass in the chair, when the following statement, prepared by Messrs. Quilter, Ball and Co., was presented:—

* Value £5,926 18s. 2d. has been given in respect of these bills.

Dr.—To sundry creditors, unsecured	£89,789 16 5
To creditors, partially secured—	
Amount of claim	£33,738 17 6
Estimated value of securities..	24,815 0 0
Also claims, lien on bills of lading received since the suspension to the extent of £3,280 (<i>per contra</i> .)	
	<u>8,923 17 6</u>
To creditor, fully secured ..	£1,426 5 0
To liabilities, viz. :—	
On acceptances against consignments, £19,449 13s. 3d. estimated to be covered, except to the extent of ..	£296 10 9
On acceptances to be provided for by the drawers, viz. :— Considered good, £49,518 19s. 5d.; amount which it is considered will be claimed on this estate ..	21,736 15 4
On guarantee to accept certain draughts from Vienna ..	3,300 0 0
On bills receivable—out-standing, £65,860 11s. 2d.; amount which it is considered will be claimed on this estate	9,386 10 5
	<u>34,719 16 6</u>
	<u>£133,433 10 5</u>
Cr.—By bills receivable on hand.. ..	£173 0 0
By sundry debtors—	
Considered good	£26,894 17 1
Do. doubtful, £13,465 2s. 8d. estimated to realise about..	4,000 0 0
Bad, £21,010 16s. 5d.	<u>30,894 17 1</u>
A portion of remittances on account of these assets to the extent of £3,289 is claimed by creditor partially secured (<i>per contra</i>).	
By consignments outstanding, estimated to produce	7,206 6 11
By store in Trinidad, estimated value	1,200 0 0
By advances on property in Demerara	57,439 15 11
	<u>£96,913 19 11</u>
Deduct rent, taxes, creditors under £20, and sundries to be paid in full	385 7 8
	<u>£96,528 12 3</u>
By deficiency	36,904 18 2
	<u>£133,433 10 5</u>

Previously to the examination of the accounts, the chairman stated

that, Messrs. Elkin and Sons, under the sanction of some of the principal creditors, had immediately after their suspension granted a power of attorney to a responsible party resident in Demerara, and that Mr. Isaac Elkin had proceeded thither by the last packet to protect the interests of the estate in that colony, the dependences there being nearly £60,000. The nominal figures show a dividend of about 14s. 6d., and, irrespective of the Demerara advances, the assets will pay 5s. 10d. in the pound. The sufficiency of the security for the Demerara claim is doubtful, but it was mentioned that remittances have been received since the failure. The whole amount already realised on general account is £12,000, of which about £3,000 is claimed by an individual creditor. The exertions of Mr. Byass and Mr. Davies in temporarily advising Messrs. Elkin and Sons were specially noticed. The majority of the creditors having expressed an opinion in favour of winding up under inspection, Mr. Gurney Hoare proposed a resolution to the effect that a letter of licence be granted to the firm, with the view of allowing time for the development of the West India assets. At the adjourned meeting, the accounts having been fully investigated, it was agreed to adopt this proposition. The only parties objecting are the representatives of the London Joint-stock Bank, who consider that the irregular conduct of Messrs. Elkin in their bill transactions render them deserving of passing through the ordeal of bankruptcy. It was intimated that there are no separate estates by which the joint one is likely to be augmented.

TRADE OF THE UNITED KINGDOM.

THE Board of Trade returns for the month ending the 5th of March were issued on the 1st of April, and present more favourable results than could have been anticipated. Although the corresponding month of last year gave an increase of £919,097 over that of the year before, there is on this occasion a further augmentation of £344,784. A serious falling off in the Manchester trade appears to have been compensated by the activity at Birmingham, cotton manufactures showing a decrease of £231,362, while in metals there has again been an increase of £201,084. In other respects the business of the country has been characterized by great steadiness, with a general tendency towards progress; and, although the next returns will probably give less satisfactory indications, there is no reason to expect any permanent turn of an adverse kind. Under the anticipation that the commencement of war would produce a panic such as to cause our goods to be shipped to foreign markets at a sacrifice, American and other buyers have of late been holding off, but the consumption meanwhile has not been checked, and they now find themselves with reduced stocks, which must increase the prospect of orders from them during the remainder of the year. At the same time, also, the diminution of consignments to Australia will tend before long to restore a healthy tone in the markets of that country. The subjoined table shows the exact increase or decrease in the exportation of each article :—

DECLARED VALUE OF EXPORTATIONS.

Month ending March 5.	1853.	1854.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
Alkali—viz., soda	31,677	25,431	—	6,246
Beer and Ale	92,225	90,907	—	1,318
Butter	31,883	31,196	—	687
Candles	7,203	8,180	977	—
Cheese	8,597	5,181	—	3,416
Coals and culm	69,002	107,714	38,712	—
Cordage and cables	14,372	18,236	3,864	—
Cotton manufactures	2,192,869	1,961,507	—	231,362
Cotton yarn	468,565	552,038	83,473	—
Earthenware	91,758	107,161	15,403	—
Fish	8,995	10,875	1,880	—
Glass manufactures	33,170	39,105	5,935	—
Haberdashery and millinery	290,475	337,143	46,668	—
Hardwares and cutlery	232,446	276,035	43,589	—
Leather	130,947	130,271	—	676
Linen manufactures	359,630	356,999	—	2,631
Linen yarn	83,746	97,108	13,362	—
Machinery	99,932	143,064	43,132	—
Metals	905,247	1,106,331	201,084	—
Oil and seeds	27,257	27,275	18	—
Painters' colours, &c.	19,466	19,601	135	—
Salt	8,038	25,765	17,727	—
Silk manufactures	145,173	89,903	—	55,270
Silk, thrown	19,971	17,930	—	2,041
Silk, twist and yarn	12,979	12,163	—	816
Soap	19,515	18,052	—	1,463
Stationery	38,003	41,555	3,552	—
Sugar, refined	18,222	23,036	4,814	—
Wool, sheep or lambs'	21,965	30,456	8,491	—
Woollen manufactures	739,383	803,938	64,555	—
Woollen yarn	49,938	103,277	53,339	—
Total	6,272,649	6,617,433		

The exportations for the first two months of the present year amount to £12,480,526, against £12,504,490 in the corresponding period of 1853, showing a diminution of £23,964, which has occurred as follows :—

Month ending,	Increase.	Decrease.
February 5. ..	—	£368,748.
March 5. ..	£344,784	—

As compared with the same months of 1852, there is an increase of £2,305,193.

With regard to imported commodities, the amount of grain and flour continues to present a striking increase. In other articles of food and

luxury some of the totals are large, and some show a considerable diminution. Butter and cheese, eggs, cocoa, wines and tobacco, have all been extensively taken, while tea, coffee, sugar, spirits, fruits and spices exhibit a reduction. In the consumption of tea, especially, the falling off has been heavy, the importation, at the same time, having been unusually great.

Subjoined are the quantities of provisions, &c. imported and taken for home consumption :—

Month ending March 5.	Imported.		Home Consumption.	
	1853.	1854.	1853.	1854.
Grain, wheat, quarters ..	136,704	233,362	136,704	283,362
Grain of other descriptions, quarters	81,158	88,346	81,158	88,346
Indian corn, quarters ..	54,532	116,455	54,532	116,455
Flour and meal, cwt. ..	261,034	400,589	261,034	400,589
Provisions.—Bacon, pork, lard, &c., cwt.	33,799	31,277	Free.	Free.
Butter and cheese, cwt. ..	21,746	62,198	29,374	63,833
Animals, No.	18,687	11,375	Free.	Free.
Eggs, No.	6,090,725	8,876,285	6,092,885	8,865,749
Cocoa, lb.	366,717	155,022	371,949	439,558
Coffee, British, lb. ..	389,014	421,644	2,354,320	2,307,270
Ditto, foreign, lb. ...	686,996	669,123	963,628	624,741
Total coffee ..	1,076,010	1,090,767	3,317,948	2,932,011
Sugar—				
West India, cwt. ..	56,327	111,016	218,424	192,231
Mauritius, cwt. ...	103,226	125,110	116,175	134,584
East India, cwt. ..	100,081	96,439	120,855	124,237
Foreign, cwt.	98,478	124,619	93,690	78,237
Total sugar ..	344,112	457,244	549,144	529,289
Tea, lb.	9,422,137	9,872,326	3,951,997	2,728,460
Rice, cwt.	158,165	57,931	67,624	70,069
Spirits, gallons	583,820	790,386	419,723	387,757
Wines, gallons	491,953	946,471	483,287	577,490
Opium, lb.	617	14,663	5,422	5,114
Tobacco, lb.	2,293,672	1,178,658	2,321,860	2,407,752
Fruits.—Currants, figs, and raisins, cwt.	19,376	31,108	37,448	17,591
Spices, lb.	320,458	239,956	353,273	336,903
Ditto, cwt.	32	7	298	289

The following are the comparative imports and exports of raw material :—

Month ending March 5.	Imported.		Home Consumption.	
	1853.	1854.	1853.	1854.
Flax, cwt.	72,244	39,702	—	—
Hemp, cwt.	41,281	35,242	—	—
Raw silk, lb.	485,613	989,086	22,465	29,667
Cotton, cwt.	804,575	602,203	55,410	65,417
Wool, lb.	3,125,450	5,830,325	480,778	2,220,426
Tallow, cwt.	21,010	26,822	—	—

Of silk manufactures the totals stand thus :—

	Imported.		Home Consumption.	
	1852.	1853.	1852.	1853.
Silk, manufactures of Europe, lb.	82,562	90,570	80,041	87,687
Ditto, of India, pieces	36,220	81,072	17,527	17,774

The importations of other articles have for the most part been very large, and must have tended to keep us well in stock. This has been particularly the case in all kinds of dye and dyeing stuff, except cochineal, as well as in hides, leather manufactures, guano, tar, salt-petre, British timber, glass manufactures, and the various descriptions of oil, exclusive of olive and rapeseed. As regards metals, there has been an increase in tin and copper, and a diminution in iron, lead, and spelter.

THE TIMES ON PANIC PRICES.

THE late excitement at the Stock Exchange having caused a panic, and the public evincing great trepidation, owing to the rapid fall in Consols and other securities, the appearance of the annexed article in *The Times*, of the 31st of March, has tended to restore temporary confidence, notwithstanding the continuance of large unfavourable speculative operations.

“The first excitement of a declaration of war having passed, the money market may be expected, in the absence of any sudden intelligence, to subside gradually from the agitation of the last ten days. The capriciousness of its movements has rarely been more exemplified, since three weeks ago a rapid rise was reported, while the British fleet was sailing from Spithead, and the mere formal notification of the

event of which that armament was the precursor, and which had been regarded as inevitable for the past three months, has been followed by a fall such as is rarely exceeded at the most critical periods. Either the confidence recently entertained, or the panic to which it has given place, must consequently appear absurd. Such circumstances are discreditable to a commercial community, and it will be well for the public to consider whether they are to be repeated. The general causes that must operate on the money market can always be foreseen with sufficient accuracy to prevent disturbances of this kind, if people will pause to recognise them. Of course, on the receipt of extraordinary news, violent fluctuations must be looked for; but, during the heaviest period of the fall just witnessed, there was a remarkable dearth of intelligence, and the daily decline of one or two per cent. went on without any one having pretended to attribute it to any new revelation. A contagious impression that the existing rates seemed considerably above the usual fancies entertained of 'war prices' was all that could be detected; and among those that have been rushing to sell, probably not one has asked himself how it is that this discovery has only just been made, or what are the precise effects that a certain annual expenditure for hostilities must be expected to have, either on the general state of the discount market or the current value of the funds.

"The sooner these points are mastered the better. The primary question is, whether the annual expenses of the war are likely to exceed the annual gains of the country from the course of trade, and thus to necessitate shipments of bullion to the amount of the deficiency, and a consequent contraction of the circulation. If this result is experienced, the funds must necessarily fall; but in the opposite case, no matter what may be the temporary disasters sustained, nothing can prevent a rise; and the idea that 80, 90, or even 100 is not the price which individuals had previously conjectured as that which would prevail during an European contest, will have no influence in preventing it from being maintained. Hitherto the principal, if not the only explanation offered for the existing depression, has been that the public have begun selling, and consequently that it will be severe and permanent; those who give this reason having entirely omitted to show what the public are subsequently to do with their money. If it had been remembered that this money must find its way back to the market, either in the shape of banking deposits or some other form, and thus produce a feeling of great ease, which would soon manifest its effect on the Stock Exchange, they would at once have seen the groundlessness of the attempt to raise alarm on that score, and would have been brought back to the one predominant consideration, namely, whether there is any cause to anticipate a steady diminution of our stock of gold.

"Whatever may be the opinion warranted on that point, it is by keeping it always in view that the instances of vague fear exhibited in October last, and repeated in the present month, can alone be averted; and, although the materials for arriving at a conclusion respecting it are not positive, they are enough to lead to a considerable degree of certainty. Supposing, for instance, the war to become not only serious,

but chronic, and to involve an additional cost even of £10,000,000 per annum, the problem to be determined is, how far the drain for that expenditure will be mitigated, and whether, after allowing for everything, the balance will be beyond the surplus usually at our disposal for foreign outlay? The only way to ascertain this probable surplus, is to estimate the yearly investments we have been accustomed to make, not merely in foreign loans and public undertakings, but also in great works at home not immediately of a remunerative character. Advances for foreign purposes of course take so much capital direct from the country, and extensive home undertakings operate in a similar manner, by causing the population to be employed in the manufacture of other than exportable articles, while they are consuming imported food and raw material for clothing. Now, there is reason to believe that on an average of several years, the annual totals sent direct to foreign countries in the shape of loans, &c., cannot have been less than 15 or 20 millions, to say nothing of the series of quiet investments in American securities, which, in a very short space, have reached an aggregate of probably £40,000,000 on European account, England doubtless being by far the greatest holder. At the same time, our own public works have been extended on a scale never before known, and the increase of our shipping, even during the last year, has been nearly 400,000 tons. Under these circumstances, the question whether 10, 20 or 30 millions can be spared for a war, loses much of its terror. During the struggle no foreign loans of any magnitude are likely to be taken, and even such small ones as may be introduced can only originate in the fact of our money market being the easiest that can be found. All outlays for industrial works in foreign countries will be suspended, and at home only schemes of immediate necessity will be undertaken. Meanwhile, our trade will go on, and Australia and California will still pour forth their supplies. Hence our yearly surplus of profit must still accrue to us, especially under the prevailing economy always induced by troublous times, and, with every extraneous channel of investment cut off, a periodical creation of £10,000,000 Consols, if it should be found desirable, in place of increased taxation, would not only be absorbed without difficulty, but would actually be welcomed. Even the money thus raised, moreover, would not be immediately felt as a dead loss to the country, since it would be partly laid out on home labour for military stores, although, of course, this labour might be more profitably expended in the creation of articles for commercial interchange. It must also be borne in mind, that when we speak of £10,000,000 per annum it is a very large amount even for a severe war. The public never think of an European conflict without taking their data from the period when the national debt was increased nearly £400,000,000 in fifteen years, and when, owing to the reckless suspension of specie payments, the Minister found himself able to squander the strength of the nation in unlimited subsidies, in creating stock upon ruinous terms, and in conducting every public establishment on a system of prodigality such as the world had never seen. Because

England, under these circumstances, with one-half her present trade and capital, and with a combination against her that threatened a death struggle, saw her 3 per cent. securities ranging commonly between 55 and 70, it seems now to be assumed that an approach to these prices may once again be within the limits of probability. The economy and effectiveness of the expeditions already sent forth, however, should inspire better hopes. Thus far all that has been done has not put us to an additional cost equal to one-third of the amount lost by the failure of the last harvest. It should also be borne in mind that the idea of an European war, involving, under proper management, an expenditure ruinous to this country, presupposes, at all events, some proportionate outlay on the part of our enemies. Assuming that outlay to be practicable, a large portion of it would come, in the course of trade, into our own pockets; but the belief that the Emperor of Russia or any of the German Powers could, either by force or credit, raise any permanent supplies of great magnitude, is inherently preposterous. Taking therefore a review of our entire position, there is apparently nothing to excite financial panic. That it is proper at the commencement of war to abstain from any estimate of the dimensions it may ultimately reach, will be admitted by every one; but, assuming that it may be protracted for years, and that it may spread, through accident or treachery, in all directions, and involve many bitter and unlooked for disasters, there is still no ground to suppose that, with common prudence on the part of our merchants, and an enlightened determination of the Government to denounce all tampering with the currency, any periods of convulsion or discredit are to be apprehended. Perhaps, indeed, it is far from impossible that the range of Consols, through some of the most arduous of our trials, will be such as to excite congratulation and surprise."

ISSUE OF £6,000,000 EXCHEQUER-BONDS.

A NOTIFICATION from the Treasury was made public on the 21st of April, respecting an issue of £6,000,000 Exchequer-bonds. The terms on which the operation is to be carried out will be easily gathered from the contents of this document, a copy of which we subjoin.

"Treasury Chambers, April 21, 1854.

"The First Lord of the Treasury and the Chancellor of the Exchequer hereby give notice that tenders will be received at the Bank of England daily, between the hours of 10 o'clock a.m. and 2 o'clock p.m., from the date hereof until Tuesday, the 2nd of May next inclusive, for the whole or part or parts of the following securities, viz. :—

"Two millions of Exchequer-bonds, bearing interest at the rate of £3 10s. per cent. per annum, payable half-yearly; and the bonds to be liquidated and paid off at par on the 8th of May, 1858.

"Two millions of Exchequer-bonds, bearing interest at the rate of £3 10s. per cent. per annum, payable half-yearly; and the bonds to be liquidated and paid off at par on the 8th of May, 1859.

"Two millions of Exchequer-bonds, bearing interest at the rate of £3 10s. per cent. per annum, payable half-yearly; and the bonds to be liquidated and paid off at par on the 8th of May, 1860.

"The bonds will bear date on the 8th of May, 1854, on which day the interest will commence, such interest to be paid half-yearly on the 8th of November and 8th of May, up to the days on which they will be paid off at par.

"The tenders must be made in separate sealed letters for each set of bonds, and be marked on the outside as follows:—

"A, for the bonds ending on the 8th of May, 1858;

"B, for the bonds ending on the 8th of May, 1859; and

"C, for the bonds ending on the 8th of May, 1860.

"No tender will be received for a less sum than £1,000.

"The tenders will be understood to be made in Exchequer-bills at par, but subscribers will be allowed the option of paying money in lieu of Exchequer-bills, upon paying 1s. for every £100 so paid in money.

"The proportions of the subscriptions to be discharged in Exchequer-bills, and in money, must be separately stated in the tenders.

"The instalments must be paid in the following proportions and at the following periods, viz.:—

"10 per cent. on Monday, the 8th of May.

"30 per cent. on Friday, the 9th of June.

"20 per cent. on Tuesday, the 11th of July.

"20 per cent. on Friday, the 8th of September.

"And the remaining payment to complete the contracts, on Tuesday, the 17th of October.

"Parties desirous of paying the instalments at an earlier period, will be at liberty to do so, and they will receive interest at the rate of £3 10s. per cent. per annum, from the day of payment up to the respective days on which the instalments fall due.

"When the instalments shall be paid in Exchequer-bills, the interest which shall have accrued on the bills at the time of such payment, will be paid to the subscriber by the Paymaster-General, at the Pay-office, Whitehall.

"Before the hour appointed for the last receipt of tenders, on the 2nd of May, the First Lord of the Treasury and the Chancellor of the Exchequer will deposit with the Governor and Deputy-Governor of the Bank of England, sealed papers, in which will be stated the reserved prices at or above which they bind themselves to accept tenders.

"All tenders at or above those rates will be accepted to the extent of £2,000,000 for each of the three series of bonds; but a right of preference will be given to the highest tenders in price. If two or more tenders shall be at the same rates, they will be subject to a *pro rata* diminution in amount, if the acceptance of such tenders in full

would occasion an excess beyond the sum of two millions, to which each of the series of bonds is to be limited.

"The tenders will be opened by the Lords Commissioners of the Treasury, in the presence of the Governor and Deputy-Governor of the Bank of England, after two o'clock p.m., on the 2nd of May; and notice will be given by the Governor and Deputy-Governor of the Bank of England, at and after ten o'clock, on the morning of the 3rd of May, to all parties whose tenders have been accepted, on their application at the bank for that purpose.

"Scrip receipts will be issued by the bank in the usual manner, which will be exchanged at the Bank of England for Exchequer-bonds, as soon as possible after the payments are completed.

"The bonds will be issued in sums of £100, £200, £500, and £1,000.

"It is not intended to apply to Parliament during the present session for any further issue of Exchequer-bonds beyond the said sum of £6,000,000."

The City Editor of *The Times* thus comments upon the announcement:—

A notification from the Chancellor of the Exchequer, inviting tenders for £6,000,000 of Exchequer-bonds, in three series of £2,000,000 each, bearing $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. interest, and redeemable respectively in four, five, and six years, was received this afternoon at the Stock Exchange. In *The Times* of the 13th April, it was mentioned that a loan of some kind was obviously contemplated by the Government, and the suspense of the public on this subject is now ended. Subjoined are the full conditions upon which the transaction is to be carried out. Subscriptions for the bonds may be made in Exchequer-bills or cash, to be completed at once, or in five instalments, extending to the 17th of October next, and proposals will be received from the present time until Tuesday week, the 2nd of May.

The aim of the above loan is evidently that which was indicated by Mr. Gladstone, at the close of his last financial explanation to the House of Commons—namely, to provide the means of keeping up an ample Government balance at the bank, so as to be prepared for all contingencies during the war. It will, therefore, as has been already remarked, not produce any disturbance in the money market, such as would be caused by the raising of funds to meet an immediate outlay not previously foreseen. In proportion as the public withdraw their deposits from the discount market to pay their subscriptions for these bonds, the Government balance at the bank will be augmented, and with it the ability of that institution to grant accommodation.

With regard to the probable success of the experiment, many different opinions will be entertained. Under present circumstances, few Exchequer-bills are likely to be offered in exchange for the new bonds, since the advantage of tendering them instead of cash is only 1s. per cent., and their price is now between par and 3s. premium, while the withdrawal of any considerable quantity would at once cause them to

be much higher. The introduction of the paltry difference in the option between bills and cash seems, therefore, a needless complication. Dismissing that point, the question is simply whether the public will take these bonds at a price of about 100, since it may be assumed that the reserved terms fixed by the Government will not be very far below that rate. The fact that debentures of the London and North Western Railway at $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. interest can be obtained for three, five, or seven years, and that those of the Great Western are also to be had to pay $4\frac{3}{4}$ per cent., will, perhaps, at first sight, induce a doubt upon the point. It must be remembered, however, that the same argument would apply to Consols, yet that these are still bought in preference, notwithstanding the fact that, even at their present quotation, they pay less than $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. Although there might be as much confidence in the due redemption of the debentures of the London and North Western Company as could be entertained with regard to any securities in existence, they could still bear no comparison with a Government investment, inasmuch as they are not sanctioned to the same extent for the employment of trust moneys, or equally available in times of pressure. The quarterly and other advances of the Bank of England to the public are made on all classes of Government securities, but have never been extended to those of railway companies. Hence, as the bonds at par would pay a higher rate of interest than could be obtained by employing the same amount in the funds, while the certainty of their being paid off in a few years must guarantee them against all possibility of a heavy depreciation, there is reason to conclude that they will be sought for to the required extent. In case of any adverse move of the money market before the 2nd of May, the Government will, of course, have to lower the terms on which they have based their calculations. As regards the method employed on the present occasion—namely, the creation of a new security, instead of stock or Exchequer-bills—no objection can be raised. The enormous experience of the railway companies has demonstrated that debentures or bonds for a fixed term constitute the most popular and convenient plan of obtaining advances, and there is no reason why the Government by an adherence to routine should deprive the public of its advantages. It may be said that the prospects of the war are not such as to warrant an expectation that the sums can be conveniently paid off at the dates named, but in that case there is at all events the power of renewal upon equitable conditions. The circumstance that at the period when the last series will become redeemable the annual burthen of the national debt will experience a decrease of £3,207,500, from the expiry of annuities, &c., may also afford some encouragement that the matter will not then be a difficult one to deal with.

In reference to the general prospects of the operation, the City writer in the *Morning Post* remarks—

The notification of the Chancellor of the Exchequer, late as it made its appearance in the City, became a subject of general conversation and comment. Assuming that the six millions of Exchequer-bonds be taken

up by the public, considerable relief will necessarily be afforded by the measure to the Exchequer-bill market; and in this a point will be gained by the right honourable gentlemen. In the concluding paragraph it is stated that it is not intended to apply to Parliament, during the present session, for any further issue of Exchequer-bonds beyond the said sum of six millions; but the public have no assurance that money will not be raised in some other form. The war will inevitably entail upon the country a very large expenditure. Expense may accumulate with a rapidity, and to an extent, not at present to be estimated. The scheme will, no doubt, prove an attraction to depositors in savings banks, by reason of the somewhat superior rate of interest which it confers; and we should think that it would by many be regarded as a convenience, through the medium of which the payment of the more extreme rates of legacy duty may be avoided. The operation may appear to indicate a desire, on the part of Government, not to incur any fresh obligation with the Bank of England. Mr. Gladstone is perhaps unwilling, after what has been said, to borrow of the national institution, and it is possible his project may in a certain way succeed; but the fate of it, like some other of the right honourable gentleman's financial experiments, has yet to be submitted to the same ordeal—the test of actual experience. It is to be observed that Consols, at the present price of about 87, yield an interest of £3 9s. per cent. per annum, or, with the accruing dividend, about £3 10s. per cent., so that, so far as the exchange of one security for the other is concerned, there would seem to be no immediate pecuniary advantage to realise. Should the operation prove fully successful, the effect must be injuriously felt, to a greater or less extent, in the money market.

The *Daily News* alluded to the topic in the following terms—

Although this announcement may be said to have been wholly unexpected, Mr. Gladstone's recent speeches in Parliament, referring in terms of considerable confidence to the state of the public balances, yet an explanation is readily to be found for it in the present exigencies of the Government. A large war expenditure is going on; the late surplus has been dissipated by the necessity of paying off the South Sea dissentients; the Bank of England, in face of the drain of bullion, is unable to supply the temporary requirements of Government with a liberal hand; and the Chancellor of the Exchequer sees the month of June approaching with the prospect of a considerable proportion of the Exchequer-bills falling due in that month being sent in for payment, unless, indeed, he should submit to the alternative of again raising the rate of interest on the floating debt. Influenced by these considerations, the Chancellor is apparently attempting, instead of funding Exchequer-bills, to transmute a portion of this floating debt into his new security of Exchequer "bonds," the first series of which will fall redeemable four years hence, when, it is presumed, the reign of peace will have returned, with its accompanying advantages. In other words, by converting Exchequer-bills into Exchequer-bonds, Mr. Gladstone hopes to relieve the Exchequer-bill market, and to render this im-

portant financial arm better able to meet the fluctuating exigencies of the national service. The provision by which Exchequer-bills will have an advantage of one shilling per cent., as compared with money, in applying for these Treasury-bonds, is prompted by the desire to maintain the price of Exchequer-bills at par. At the same time, of course, Government are not averse to receiving money for these bonds, an operation which, so far as it goes, will be tantamount in its action on the money market to a Government loan. It remains to be seen if Government, in asking the sanction of Parliament to this plan, will reserve power to re-issue, on such terms as may be considered advisable, Exchequer-bills sent in for exchange, into Exchequer-bonds. The intimation that "it is not intended to apply to Parliament during the present session for any further issue of Exchequer-bonds beyond the said sum of six millions," it may be observed, will not exclude the Treasury from making either a fresh issue of Exchequer-bills or an addition to the funded debt, should the national service require. The *price* at which the new Exchequer-bonds are to be issued is to be regulated by the tenders to be sent in, but a remarkable illustration of the change that has taken place in the money market is to be found in the fact that one of the "options" presented in Mr. Gladstone's conversion scheme consisted of Exchequer-bonds to be issued at par, and bearing only $2\frac{3}{4}$, and subsequently $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. per annum interest. It will not be overlooked that the Chancellor proposes to pay off these Treasury-bonds in two modes, as the tenders may specify, viz., in Exchequer-bills or money.

The *Morning Herald*, alluding to the effect of the proposed issue upon the stock market, says:—

"The market for public securities opened with a firm appearance, at an advance on the closing quotation of last evening; but in consequence of sales, said to be on behalf of the Bank of England, the prices of the funds gradually declined until the close of business, when they left off with much more heaviness. The rumours in circulation yesterday, relative to the probability of a new loan being brought out immediately, were not altogether unfounded, as will be seen from the annexed document, which was issued at a late hour this afternoon. It will be seen that the Chancellor of the Exchequer proposes to issue six millions of Exchequer-bonds, bearing $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. interest, and redeemable in four, five, and six years from the 8th of May, 1854. It is optional for parties to tender, either in Exchequer-bills at par, or in money; in the latter case, however, paying £100 1s., or 1s. premium for the (assumed) privilege. It is evident from the latter provision that the Chancellor of the Exchequer expects his bonds to be taken at a premium; but it is very questionable whether the present attempt to issue Exchequer-bonds will be more successful than the essay last year. The effect of the announcement of the intended issue of Exchequer-bonds has been to reduce the price of Consols nearly 1 per cent., the closing quotations being $87\frac{1}{8}$ for the account.

THE FRENCH LOAN OF £10,000,000.

THE success of the subscription to the French loan has been made the subject of a special report to the Emperor by the Finance Minister, M. Bineau. In this document, which we append, he describes the progress of the operation, and congratulates the Government on the satisfactory result attained. The temporary depression in the value of the scrip will not interfere with the general popularity of the loan, especially among small investors; but there is little doubt if hostilities in the East shall be prolonged, that the capitalists who have subscribed largely will suffer considerable pecuniary loss.

"Paris, March 28.

"Sire,—Your Majesty authorised me to open a public subscription to the loan of 250,000,000*fr.*, and, from the 14th to the 20th of March the registers were opened in the chief towns of the departments and the arrondissements of the empire.

"I now give an account to your Majesty of the results of the subscription. France has nobly responded to the confidence of the Emperor; and, from the first day, the number, the eagerness, and the enthusiasm of the subscribers proved that they were not only actuated by the desire to invest their capital or their savings, but that in the general movement which embraced the whole territory of the empire a sentiment of patriotism had a large share. From the very first day the public subscription became a national one.

"98,000 subscribers have inscribed their names, and the subscription amounts to 467,000,000*fr.*

"In this amount neither Algeria nor the subscriptions of the last few days in distant arrondissements, are included. The amount from these sources, with the exact total of the subscription, will appear in a subsequent and more detailed report, but they will very slightly modify the totals, and still less the proportions, which I am about to submit to your Majesty.

"The sum of 467,000,000*fr.* is shared as follows between Paris and the departments, between the Four-and-a-Half per Cent. Rente and the Three per Cent. Rente :—

" Departments	253,000,000 <i>fr.</i>	
" Paris	214,000,000 <i>fr.</i>	
		467,000,000 <i>fr.</i>
" Three per Cent. Rente .. .	308,000,000 <i>fr.</i>	
" Four-and-a-Half per Cent. Rente ..	159,000,000 <i>fr.</i>	
		467,000,000 <i>fr.</i>

"The 98,000 subscribers are divided in the following manner between the departments and Paris :—

	Subscribers.
" Departments	72,000
" Paris	26,000
	98,000

"The number of subscriptions which do not exceed 50f. of Rente, is 60,000, and the amount 49,000,000f.

"These figures do not require comment; they speak for themselves.

"The subscriptions having exceeded the sum of 250,000,000f., there must be a reduction in the amounts requested.

"At first sight this reduction would appear to be a subject of regret, and it might be feared that it would be a disappointment and inconvenience to a portion of the subscribers; but it is easy to acknowledge that this inconvenience is only apparent, and that it will not be sensibly felt by the greater portion of them.

"In the first place, all those whose demand did not exceed 50f. of Rente will not have to submit to any reduction, in conformity with article 6 of the law for carrying the loan into execution. These amount to 60,000; that is to say, they form more than half of the total number.

"Besides this, of those who will be reduced, and to whom the portion of their payment corresponding with the reduction should be returned, all those whose contingent does not exceed 1,000f. of Rente may, according to the 4th and 6th articles, avoid all return, by anticipatory payment with discount, in pursuance of ulterior arrangements.

"The reduction effected in subscriptions of a higher amount need neither excite anxiety nor regret, for it will be applied to subscribers whose capital is moveable and who can easily find employment for it. The sums left to be used will besides contribute, by their subsequent employment, to strengthen and raise the value of the public securities. As the subscriptions which do not exceed 50f. of Rente amount to 49,000,000, there will remain 201,000,000 to share between the others.

"Among the latter it is requisite to distinguish those which, varying little above 50f., would go below that sum if they were reduced in the same proportion as the others. To these it is right, and in conformity with the spirit of the subscription, to accord the *minimum* of 50f. of Rente. They will thus take a capital of 15,000,000f.

"According to this, there will remain 186,000,000f. to share among the other subscriptions; and, as they amount to 392,000,000f., the reduction to effect will be to the extent of about 52 per cent.—that is to say, each of them will be reduced to rather less than half. The latest lists, which have not yet been received at the Ministry of Finance, will not occasion any sensible modification on this proportion.

"The reductions to be made will be effected by round numbers of 10f. up to 1,000f. of Rente. Beyond that amount they will be made by round numbers of 50f.

"The labour necessary to carry into effect this reduction and the preparation of the personal certificates proceeds with the greatest activity and without the loss of an instant; so that, in a very few days, each subscriber may, at the counting-house where he has paid, exchange his provisional receipt for a loan certificate, and receive the partial reimbursement which is due to him.

"Thus composed of Three per Cent. and Four-and-a-Half per Cent.

Rente, thus shared between the departments and Paris, the departments having the greater portion, thus divided between 100,000 shareholders, the loan will from the first day be classified to a great extent. It will, with a few exceptions, be in hands where it will remain as a solid and permanent investment, and eventually it will be placed under conditions alike favourable to the subscribers themselves and to the public credit.

"Your Majesty may congratulate yourself, I hope, for having given your consent to the propositions which I had the honour to submit to you for the adoption and execution of this important measure. This happy innovation has already produced two great results. By a direct appeal to small capitalists, it has enlarged and consolidated the basis of our public credit; and, what is still more valuable, it has given to France the opportunity and the means of manifesting, in the most striking and unanswerable manner, her will, her strength, her confidence in the Sovereign whom she has chosen, and her energetic adhesion to the policy which he adopts under the important position which Europe has assumed.

"I am, with the deepest respect, Sire, your Majesty's very humble and very obedient servant, the Minister of Finance,

"BINEAU."

FAILURE OF THE TURKISH LOAN.

It has been officially announced, that the Turkish loan, for which subscriptions were opened at the close of March by Messrs. Rothschild Brothers, has been withdrawn, the applications having been extremely limited in amount. From its early introduction it was predicted on the Stock Exchange that it would be a failure, the proposals offered to the public not being considered encouraging. The negotiation of the previous contract, and the unsatisfactory results which attended its repudiation, have not been obliterated from the mind of the public, and it may now be safely affirmed that Turkish credit has sustained a heavy blow in this country. Namik Pasha, the minister employed to carry out the arrangement, has left London, to return, it is presumed, to Constantinople; but it has been alleged that he has obtained £400,000 from the French Government temporarily to supply the exigencies of the Ottoman treasury. The state of the money market has no doubt interfered, in a measure, with the successful completion of the negotiation, but the lesson will be a useful one to other powers besides Turkey, as teaching them that similar contracts, when concluded, cannot be openly violated without producing serious and lasting effects.

CHARTERED BANK OF INDIA, AUSTRALIA, AND CHINA.

THE dissentient scripholders of the Chartered Bank of India, Australia, and China have at length applied for an injunction against the directors to restrain them from enforcing the call of £2 per share due the 20th of April, and from forfeiting the shares upon which the amount may not be paid. The contest between the litigant parties will now come fully before the public, who will be enabled to judge the real merits of the question at issue. It is alleged that the dissentients number 19,000 of the 32,000 shares appropriated; and, being a strong majority, they contend that the board should listen to their representations. The directors, on the contrary, appear to view them as a band of speculators; many of whom, having obtained shares at low prices, are anxious to dissolve the establishment and divide the remaining deposits. Upon this, the former have determined to bring the point to a conclusion, and, to test the power of the board, have entered into a subscription not exceeding 2s. per share. With the funds so raised have been commenced these proceedings, the result of which will be awaited with anxiety by all interested. It is to be regretted that some mutual understanding could not have been come to before an appeal to Chancery for arranging this dispute, the position of the principal directors and that of a great number of the dissentients not permitting it to be supposed that other causes than a difference of opinion have influenced them in adopting so unpleasant an alternative.

THE CLEARING-HOUSE.

THE committee of private bankers have adopted a resolution to consider the question of admitting joint-stock banks to the privileges of the Clearing-house, and it is now believed the matter will be brought to a satisfactory conclusion.

THE AUSTRALIAN BANKS.

THE latest accounts from Sydney state that on the 9th of November the Colonial Secretary published a general abstract of the sworn returns rendered pursuant to the Act of Council, 4 Vict., No. 13, of the average assets and liabilities, and of the capital and profits of the several banks of this colony for the quarter ended the 30th of September ultimo.

The accounts thus afforded include the whole of the banks of New South Wales, many of whose proprietors are resident in England, as well as those of the Bank of Australasia, the Union Bank of Australia, and the recently organised London Chartered Bank of Australia. A careful survey of the figures furnished will at once lead to the conclusion that they enjoy a sound and prosperous position. The high dividends lately declared in London, however, make, in some special instances, the present statement appear incorrect.

Bank of New South Wales.—Total liabilities, £2,513,104 3s.; notes in circulation, £412,847; bills in circulation, £3,005 12s. 9d.; balance due to other banks, £228,791 19s.; deposits, £1,868,459 11s. 3d.; assets, £2,989,773 10s. 2d.; coin and bullion, £1,435,032 17s. 2d.; landed property, £19,950 7s. 9d.; notes and bills of other banks, £13,982 13s. 3d.; balances due from other banks, £42,646 3s. 3d.; notes and bills discounted, and all other debts due to the bank, £1,478,161 8s. 9d.; capital and profits—capital paid up, £400,000; rate per annum of last dividend, 10 per cent.; amount of dividend, £20,000; amount of reserved profits, after paying dividend, £44,960 11s. 3d.

The Commercial Banking Company.—Total liabilities, £1,101,027 18s. 3d.; notes in circulation, £202,428 13s. 1d.; balance due to other banks, £32 2s. 3d.; deposits, £898,567 2s. 11d.; assets, £1,385,114 5s. 1d.; coin and bullion, £562,435 0s. 2d.; landed property, £12,830 15s. 3d.; notes and bills of other banks, £5,127 0s. 6d.; balances due from other banks, £33,278 7s. 1d.; notes and bills discounted and all other debts to the banks, £471,443 2s. 1d.; capital and profits—capital paid up, £200,000; rate per annum of last dividend, £10 per cent.; amount of dividend, £20,000; amount of reserved profits after paying dividend, £16,578 13s. 2d.

Bank of Australasia.—Total liabilities, £1,024,819 13s. 11d.; notes in circulation, £191,195 3s. 1d.; bills in circulation, £26,675 11s. 4d.; deposits, £806,948 19s. 6d.; assets, £1,115,554 0s. 10d.; coin and bullion, £711,769 1s. 6d.; landed property, £8,750; notes and bills of other banks, £1,489; notes and bills discounted, and all other debts due to the bank, £393,545 19s. 4d.; capital paid up, £900,000; rate per annum of last dividend, £6 per cent.; amount of dividend, £27,000; amount of reserved profits after paying dividend, £167,109 15s. 1d.

The Union Bank of Australia.—Total liabilities, £1,079,456 11s. 3d.; notes in circulation, £209,798 0s. 10d.; bills in circulation, £22,502 5s. 11d.; deposits, £847,156 4s. 6d.; assets, £1,098,334 7s. 2d.; coin and bullion, £512,583 18s. 8d.; landed property, £14,662 5s.; notes and bills of other banks, £7,231 3s. 4d.; notes and bills discounted, and all other debts due to the bank, £563,857 0s. 2d.; capital paid up, £820,000; rate per annum of last dividend, £6 per cent.; amount of dividend, £106,600; amount of reserved profits after paying dividend, £213,839 16s. 6d.

Australian Joint Stock Bank.—Total liabilities £218,149 10s. 6d.; notes in circulation, £53,797 1s. 6d.; bills in circulation, £851 8s. 5d.; deposits, £163,501 0s. 7d.; assets, £346,823 7s. 1d.; coin and bullion, £91,073 5s. 2d.; landed property, £2,281 13s. 4d.; notes and bills of other banks, £431 10s. 9d.; balances due from other banks, £74,037 17s. 3d.; notes and bills discounted, and all other debts to the bank, £178,999 0s. 7d.—capital and profits—capital paid up, £125,000.

London Chartered Bank.—Total liabilities; £31,775 19s. 6d.; notes in circulation, £3,905 4s. 7d.; bills in circulation, £486 13s. 1d.; deposits, £27,294 1s. 10d.; assets, coin and bullion, £82,195 5s. 3d.;

landed property, £13,485 11s. 1d.; notes and bills discounted, and all other debts due to the bank, £19,142 16s. 11d.; total assets, £114,823 13s. 3d.; capital paid up, £375,000.

The return of the Bank of New South Wales includes the Victoria Branch; and in the amount of balances due to other banks is included the sum of £9,677 6s. 2d., being liabilities of the old Bank of New South Wales, guaranteed. In the amount of notes and bills discounted, and all other debts due to the bank of New South Wales, is included £548,374 7s. 10d. London remittance account.

To the Commercial Banking Company's rate per annum of last dividend, namely 10 per cent., is to be added a bonus of £1 5s. per share.

To the Bank of Australasia's rate of last dividend, viz., 6 per cent. is to be added a bonus of £1 16s. per share, which makes the rate equal to 15 per cent.

The Australian Joint Stock Bank was established on the 24th of January last, and the London Chartered Bank commenced operations on the 1st of July.

This abstract shows that the total liabilities of these banks amount to £3,968,353 16s.; that their notes in circulation amount to £1,074,061 3s. 1d.; that their bills in circulation amount to £53,521 11s. 1d.; that their deposits amount to £4,611,927 0s. 7d.; their total assets amount to £7,050,423 3s. 7d., which is represented by £3,395,089 7s. 11d. in coin and bullion; £71,900 12s. 5d., landed property; £28,261 7s. 10d. in notes and bills from other banks; £449,962 7s. 7d. in balances due from other banks; and £3,105,149 7s. 10d. in notes and bills discounted, and all other debts due to the banks. The paid-up capital of these banking companies amounts to £2,820,000.

The position of the banking interest in Australia continues to attract the notice of the public press in Sydney; and the following article, extracted from the *Sydney Morning Herald* of the 25th of November, will explain the views entertained in some quarters upon the subject. It is to be hoped that the warning conveyed will not be neglected, especially by those who possess the local administration of the banks, so that any excess of speculation may be checked in its earliest stage, and not be permitted to expand beyond prudent limits.

"BANKING AND SPECULATION.—Some months ago we expressed an apprehension lest the large influx of British capital then approaching our shores, in the shape of new banking establishments, should have the effect of stimulating speculation to an unwholesome, if not dangerous, extent. This implied a belief that the bank capital already existing in the colony was amply sufficient for our reasonable wants. Nor do we see how any person acquainted with the state of our money market could doubt that such was the case. Capital had so rapidly accumulated on every hand, and had so far outstripped the means of profitable investment, as to have altered the usual relative positions of borrower and lender: the latter having to seek after the former, and bespeak his custom by offering him money on easy terms. Under these circum-

stances, any considerable importation of fresh capital for lending purposes, must necessarily be followed by one of two results—either a more marked stagnation in the money market, or a spirit of bold speculation.

“Not only were the capitalists of the mother-country unaware of these facts, but were misled by other facts, which placed our banking business in a point of view apparently inconsistent with the actual state of things. These were the high rates of profits, as indicated by the high rates of dividends and bonuses. And had the profits thus indicated been the fruits of ordinary banking, our money friends in England would have been quite right in inferring that Australia was urgently in need of more bank competition, and would well repay adventure in that direction. By this time they will have been undeceived. They will have learned that the incidents which led to those extraordinary dividends and bonuses were altogether exceptional and temporary, arising out of the purchase and exportation of gold, during the interval between the first discovery of our auriferous wealth and the rush of foreign buyers. That interval over, the banks must henceforth depend for their profits upon operations common to banks all over the world.

“It was easy to foresee that one of the earliest results of our monetary plethora would be a reduction in the rates of interest and of discount. The result has happened. Formerly, and for many years, the common value of money was 10 per cent. per annum. We have witnessed its gradual reduction to 8, to 7, to 6, to 5, to 4, to 3; and now, in an advertisement that came out a day or two ago, one of our banking institutions announces that ‘first-class local bills, having less than sixty days to run, are discounted at the rate of $2\frac{1}{2}$.’

“By one of those odd coincidences, which so frequently throw an air of ridicule over grave transactions, the very paper in which this advertisement made its first appearance, contained the news brought out by the *Chusan*; not the least important item of which was, that the directors of the Bank of England had raised the minimum rates of discount to 4 per cent. ‘This time last year,’ says the *Times*, ‘the rate was 2 per cent. It was advanced to $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. on the 6th January, to 3 per cent. a fortnight afterwards, and to $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. on the 2nd June last.’ Our British speculators in Australian banking thus find themselves in a position exactly the reverse of what they expected. Instead of exchanging a falling for a rising market, they have exchanged a rising for a falling one. Instead of reaping 10 or 15 per cent. while England was reaping 2, they must be content to reap $2\frac{1}{2}$, while England is reaping 4. Thus fickle is the blind goddess, at whose shrine their capital has been so freely and so hopefully offered!

“This bold step on the part of the Bank of England is approved by all the leading journals of London—not only approved, but applauded. ‘It has,’ says the *Morning Chronicle*, ‘checked, controlled, and finally subdued, speculation in channels which have, when permitted to exceed prudent bounds, a natural tendency to derange established undertakings, and to impair the general prosperity.’ If, under the

circumstances in which England was then placed, this measure was thought calculated to do good, may we not fear that, under the circumstances in which this colony is just now placed, the opposite measure on the part of our own banks is calculated to do harm? We do not refer to the interests of the banks themselves, though it seems quite certain that minimum rates of discount and maximum rates of dividend cannot long co-exist; but we refer to the parties whom the bank so indulgently accommodate, and to the influence which such indulgence exerts upon the community at large. Is not the measure we speak of likely to apply a stimulus where it would be more rational to apply a check? Can it be denied that there exists a rage for purchasing, and little or none for producing? Look at our teeming advertisements, visit our auction rooms, and then cast an eye over the lengths and breadths of the country in quest of new undertakings on any magnitude of scale, and say whether the prevailing mania is not for purchasing properties already formed, upon which no further outlay is intended, and of which the assured advantages consist in the prospective enhancement, and in the ability to command at any future time higher prices than those paid by present purchasers? Hitherto this climbing system has succeeded to admiration, having exalted many bold spirits to the very pinnacle of material prosperity. But, however lofty the ladder may be, its topmost step must be reached at last; and they who, having gained that giddy height, are as unable to maintain as to better their position, must be at least in danger of a fearful fall. It cannot be denied that this mania for speculation in real estate is to a considerable extent justified by the solid wealth of the colonists. But when we look at our bank returns, and see there the startling fact, that in a population of two hundred thousand souls, not less than two millions sterling are lent in the discounting of bills, averaging two hundred pounds for every man, woman, and child in the colony, and that this system of accommodation has increased during the last three months by more than half a million, and during the last twelve months by nearly a round million, we cannot but fear that we are hurrying to a crisis which, though doubtless it would leave the country still prosperous, must involve in disaster, if not in ruin, many individuals and many families who are now basking in the splendours of a too transient wealth."

DIMINISHED COUNTRY CIRCULATION.

ATTENTION has already been called to the circumstance of the diminished paper circulation of the country, occasioned by the withdrawal of the notes of private establishments since the passing of the Bank Charter Act in 1844. A cotemporary investigating the question, states that the amount so represented is £696,325. The number of banks among whom this issue was formerly divided was 45, and its extinction it appears has resulted from two causes—namely, in some cases, stoppage of payment, and in others from the establishments having agreed,

in place of circulating their own notes, to substitute those of the Bank of England, upon receiving from that institution an allowance of 1 per cent. In either case its effect in depriving the country of a certain amount of circulating medium is the same, and the result, therefore, is that during the last ten years about £500,000 sterling may be considered to have been unnecessarily withdrawn from our resources. The process, for instance, has been as follows:—At the passing of the Bank Charter Act £14,000,000 was considered the point at which the credit-circulation of the country—that is to say, the circulation based on securities, and not on gold—might be safely fixed, in addition to the circulation enjoyed at the time by the various country banks, amounting to £8,000,000. Of this country circulation, however, only two-thirds could be considered to be based on credit, since each issuing bank is supposed to keep a reserve, equal to one-third of its issues, in Bank of England notes or coin. While the credit circulation of the Bank of England was fixed at £14,000,000, that of the country banks was therefore virtually fixed at £5,333,000, making the real total of credit paper £19,333,000. Hence, the country circulation having since diminished £696,325, the actual diminution in our use of credit must be taken at two-thirds of that sum—namely, £464,217. Experience having shown that the amount of credit-circulation fixed by the act of 1844, was not excessive, the needlessness of the sacrifice incurred by the extinction of any portion of it must be apparent to every one, more especially since the act in question made full provision against such a contingency. By an order in Council, on the application of the Bank of England, an increased issue can at any time be made equal to two-thirds of the total circulation that may have become extinct, and the profit of this increased issue is to go to the public. Under these circumstances, the operation would now be tantamount to an immediate advance to the Government of £464,217 in perpetuity, free of interest; and it seems inexplicable that, at a time when a creation of Exchequer-bills is looked upon as likely to be requisite to provide for exigencies that cannot otherwise be conveniently met, a resource so obvious and so calculated to lessen that disturbance in the money market, which is sure to be occasioned by any demand upon it, however slight, while it is under the influence of the first vague apprehensions of the effects of a war, should be neglected.

THE BANK OF FRANCE.

THE *Moniteur* publishes the following monthly debtor and creditor account of the Bank of France, made up to the 13th of April:—

DEBTOR.				F.	C.
Capital of the bank	..	..	..	91,250,000	0
Reserve of the bank	..	..	..	12,980,750	14
Reserve of the bank in landed property	..	..	..	4,000,000	0
Carried forward				F.108,233,753	14

				Brought forward	..	F.103,230,750	14
Bank notes in circulation	..	..	..	..	..	467,123,400	0
Do. of the branch banks	..	..	..	..	..	128,181,625	0
Bank notes to order	..	..	..	..	..	6,493,187	84
Receipts payable at sight	..	..	..	..	..	11,682,308	0
Treasury account current, creditor	..	..	..	..	..	77,204,400	39
Sundry accounts current	..	..	..	..	..	172,694,257	64
Do. with the branch banks	..	..	..	..	..	29,040,768	0
Dividends payable	..	..	..	..	..	505,502	25
Discounts and sundry interests	..	..	..	..	..	7,782,627	2
Commission on deposits	..	..	..	..	..	11,013	95
Rediscounted during the last six months	..	..	..	..	..	1,289,106	12
Received on account of protested bills	..	..	..	..	..	881	27
Sundries	..	..	..	..	..	3,787,354	68
						<u>F.1,014,027,182</u>	<u>30</u>

						CREDITOR.	F.	C.
Cash in hand	..	..	..	..	..	..	222,839,970	85
Do. in the branch banks	..	..	..	..	..	..	146,327,794	0
Commercial bills overdue	..	..	..	..	..	..	912,049	30
Commercial bills discounted, but not yet due, of which								
65,028,498f. 56c. were received from the branch banks							194,545,284	84
Do. in the branch banks	..	..	..	..	..	..	186,996,717	0
Advanced on deposit of bullion	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,219,000	0
Do. by the branch banks	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,356,788	0
Advanced on French public securities	..	..	..	..	..	..	21,496,736	10
Do. by the branch banks	..	..	..	..	..	..	7,107,100	0
Advanced on railway securities	..	..	..	..	..	..	40,206,500	0
Do. by the branch banks	..	..	..	..	..	..	15,717,420	0
Advanced to the state on the treaty of June 30th, 1848	..	..	..	..	..	..	70,000,000	0
Discounted Treasury bonds for the Treasury	..	..	..	..	..	..	30,000,000	0
Government stock reserved	..	..	..	..	..	..	10,000,000	0
Do. disposable	..	..	..	..	..	..	55,447,573	97
Hotel and furniture of the bank	..	..	..	..	..	..	4,000,000	0
Landed property of the branch banks	..	..	..	..	..	..	4,018,783	0
Expenses of the management of the bank	..	..	..	..	..	..	900,211	16
Sundries	..	..	..	..	..	..	935,254	8
							<u>F.1,014,027,182</u>	<u>30</u>

• Certified by the Governor of the Bank of France, Count D'ARGOUT.

It appears from the preceding account, that the cash in hand in Paris has increased by 44,163,631f. 82c., and in the departments by 33,060,586f.; the commercial bills discounted have increased in Paris by 4,822,578f. 22c., and decreased in the departments by 4,714,322f.; the advances on public securities have decreased by 3,177,300f.; the bank notes in circulation have decreased by 925,300f.; the balance to the credit of the Treasury has increased by 16,872,551f. 8c.; the sundry accounts current have increased in Paris by 40,483,463f. 47c., and in the departments by 4,061,805f.

Banking and Commercial Law.

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS IN THE LAW RELATING TO BILLS OF EXCHANGE, PROMISSORY NOTES, AND BILLS OF SALE.

IN the large majority of the transactions which occur in bills of exchange and promissory notes, the reason for default in payment when the instrument reaches maturity, is either the want of ability or of will in the party liable, and not any legal or moral defence.

The defendant first of all evades law proceedings as long as possible, and when he is at last fairly brought into court he pleads some vexatious and frivolous plea to compel the plaintiff to go through the empty form of a trial when there is really nothing to try.

Actions of this sort have become a reproach to the law. A bill of exchange is not paid when due. The acceptor is proceeded against. He defends the action, and denies that the acceptance is in his hand-writing; but, afterwards, he probably makes a formal admission that the acceptance is his, and thereby in truth ignores his plea. Nevertheless, the cause has still to be tried. Counsel are employed. A judge and a jury hear the case. The defendant's formal admission is read, or if no admission have been made, a witness proves the hand-writing, and a verdict is returned by the jury in favour of the complaining party.

All this takes time and costs money, and in the large majority of cases, is wholly unnecessary. When a party accepts a bill of exchange, or signs a promissory note, he makes a formal admission of the existence of a just debt, and engages to pay it by a specified time. He knows when that time arrives that it ought to be paid.

It is now proposed to abolish the formal proceeding of bringing an action, and encouraging a defendant to gain time by putting in a sham defence.

At the same time it is necessary to guard against any abuse of the new proceeding, and to enable a party to come forward and make a defence when a defence can be made.

The mode by which it appears to be intended to accomplish these ends is the following:—The holder of a bill of exchange or promissory note which is dishonoured is to make an affidavit of the validity of the instrument and the truth of the debt, upon which he may take out an execution against the person or goods of the defendant, who is to be allowed a certain number of days after notice of such execution (which will generally be by the

same being put in force) to come forward and make any defence he may have.

In the majority of transactions in bills of exchange and promissory notes, the new system may reasonably be expected to work well.

It is not uncommonly supposed that it is an act of bankruptcy to dishonour a bill of exchange, but this is erroneous. It is no more an act of bankruptcy not to pay a bill of exchange than it is not to pay any other debt. Perhaps there may be room for discussion whether it would be desirable to make it an act of bankruptcy to dishonour a bill of exchange. There are difficulties in the way of such a course, but probably they could be overcome. This remedy would apply to traders only, as they are alone liable to the bankrupt laws.

The remedy of speedy execution and act of bankruptcy could hardly exist together, inasmuch as it is not lawful for a creditor to take and retain an advantage from a debtor with a knowledge that he has committed an act of bankruptcy. We have thrown out this hint for the consideration of those who are now amending the law.

Before we close we must remark that the new system may be found to have drawbacks which are not expected.

The additional remedy given by the proposed amendment of the law to bills of exchange, may have the effect of increasing the class of persons who carry on a doubtful trade as bill discounters, and the preference which holders of bills of exchange, &c., will obtain may have the effect of creating discontent amongst the general body of creditors, in the same way that warrants of attorney and judges' orders do now.

BILLS OF SALE.

It is proposed by a measure now before Parliament to create a register of bills of sale, and to require that they shall be registered. We are not sanguine that this will have all the good effect which its promoters anticipate.

At present bills of sale are a forlorn kind of security, regarded with little favour or mercy in any courts. The registration of them may give them a fictitious validity, which they would not otherwise possess.

THE LAW OF LOST BILLS OF EXCHANGE.

THE Court of Exchequer Chamber has recently had this subject before it, and has pronounced a decision, reversing a prior decision of the Exchequer of Pleas, and establishing that a party cannot sue *at law* for a debt, in respect of which a negotiable

bill of exchange has been given and then lost, although the bill may have been lost before it was due, and may not have been indorsed.

The following is the material part of the judgment, as reported in the *Law Times*, vol. 22, page 39.

"The present case is not one of an action upon a lost bill, but on a demand for the amount of which the bill was given. A bill given for and on account of money, due on simple contract, operates as a conditional payment, which may be repudiated at the option of the creditor, if the bill were unpaid at maturity in his hands, in which case he may rescind the transaction of payment, and sue on the original contract. If the bill be lost, the condition on which the payment may be repudiated does not arise, and the defendant, if compelled to pay the original debt, would be subject to inconvenience of a like kind, as if compelled to pay the bill. * * * To entitle the plaintiff to sue, he ought to be the holder of the bill, and the bill ought to be due; and there seems no reason why a defendant may not rely on a defect of the plaintiff's title in either of these respects, leaving the other unnoticed. It may well be that a person who has given a bill on account of a debt, may be able and willing to pay the debt if he can withdraw the bill from circulation, and may object to pay only on the ground that the bill is not forthcoming, without objecting to its not being due." *Crowe v. Clay*.

As we have before pointed out, the proper remedy for the loser of the bill is to tender an indemnity, and then to sue in equity.

Legal Miscellany.

IN RE W. B. ANDERSON.—BILL FORGERIES.

Court of Bankruptcy, Basinghall Street, April 21.—(Before Mr. Commissioner FANE).—This was a final examination meeting. The bankrupt was described as a merchant, of Billiter-street.

Mr. Vallings made an application to the Court under the following circumstances:—A Mr. Fries had procured from Messrs. Overend, Gurney, and Co., the discount of a bill of exchange. The bill was afterwards found out to be a forgery, and the bankrupt was convicted of that offence. Mr. Fries had handed the money received for the bill to the bankrupt, and he was apprehended with £600 of it in his possession. Messrs. Gurney and Co., and Mr. Fries now asked that the £600 might be given up to them. The notes could be identified as part of the money received for the forged bill.

His honour said, if the assignees chose to give their consent to the money being given up, he did not object; but he did not see how he could make any order in the matter. He was clearly of opinion the money might be consi-

dered as stolen property, and he did not know how the assignees could make claim to it. He thought the money ought to be handed over to Mr. Fries. The matter would then rest between Mr. Fries and Messrs. Overend and Co. He would make a memorandum sanctioning this course.

Mr. Jacobs, for the assignees, and Mr. Vallings, considered this would enable them to meet the difficulties in the matter, and

His honour made a memorandum accordingly.

The official assignee (Mr. Cannan), in reply to the Court, stated that the debts and liabilities of the bankrupt were above £20,000, and the assets in hand were £2,400. It was hoped a further sum would be realised.

The examination of the bankrupt was ordered to stand adjourned to the 23rd of June.

NATIONAL PROVINCIAL BANK.—THOMPSON V. BELL.

Court of Exchequer, Friday, April 21. (Sittings in Banco.)—Mr. Serjeant Kinglake moved for a new trial in this case upon the ground of misdirection. This was an action brought to recover £595 from the defendant, as the public officer of the National Provincial Bank of England, under the following circumstances:—Among the various branches of the bank in question, is one at Southampton, of which the local manager was Mr. Kerr. The plaintiff's wife had deposited various sums at this bank, amounting, together with interest, to £780, in November, 1849, and her husband being frequently absent, his wife seems to have managed the affair for him. In November, 1849, Mr. Kerr falsely represented to Mrs. Thompson that the bank had a lien on a house which was for sale, subject to a mortgage of £400, and, as the bank was desirous of withdrawing their advance, and the house was valuable, he advised her to become the purchaser at £595. To this she assented, and Mr. Kerr drew that amount from the bank on her behalf, and gave her a receipt for that amount as if disposed of in the payment of the mortgage, and the balance to the owner of the house, promising that a conveyance should be prepared and forwarded to her. This was not done, and eventually, on Mr. Thompson's return, this action was brought to recover from the bank the whole amount so obtained from his wife, on the ground that they were responsible for the acts of Mr. Kerr, as their local manager. Mr. Justice Erle, at the trial at the last Hampshire assizes, held that the bank was liable, the jury having found that Kerr had their authority, as local manager, to assign their equitable mortgage in the manner represented by him, and that he had caused Mrs. Thompson to understand that he had such authority. It was now contended that the ruling was erroneous, and that the bank was not liable for the acts of their agent, except so far as they were in accordance with the usual course of business.

Rule nisi granted.

Reports of Joint-Stock Banks.

WEST OF ENGLAND AND SOUTH WALES DISTRICT BANK.

THE nineteenth annual general meeting of this bank was held at Bristol, on the 20th of January, Mr. P. Jones in the chair, when the following report was adopted:—

The business of the bank has continued to increase, and your directors are enabled to lay before you a satisfactory statement of the profits of the year.

In consequence of the increase of business which has taken place, the premises now occupied by the bank in this city are found to be altogether too small for the purposes of the company, and your directors have contracted to purchase those valuable and extensive freehold premises, situated in the centre of the city, opposite the Exchange, and formerly known as the Bush Hotel. For the same reason your directors have contracted to purchase freehold premises in Cardiff. Last year, under favourable circumstances, and at the urgent request of numerous shareholders, your directors purchased freehold bank premises in Exeter, situated in the most convenient and best part of that city. Under these circumstances, your directors have appropriated a portion of the profits of the year to a fund for the reduction of the cost of bank premises and fittings. They have also thought it right to reserve a further portion against the expense about to be incurred in building bank premises in Bristol. In June last your directors withdrew from Somerton, and finally closed that branch; the business there being insufficient to justify them in continuing it. Since that time they have opened two branches—one at Tredegar, and the other at Aberdare; and from the amount of business which has already been brought to these branches, your directors feel satisfied that they will become a source of profit to the company. A dividend has been paid for the half-year, ended the 30th June last, at the rate of £8 per cent. per annum, free of income tax, and your directors now declare a dividend at the same rate, also free from income tax, for the half-year ended the 31st of December.

The statement of the annual accounts is as follows:—

The amount of undivided profit standing at the credit of the reserved fund, on the 31st of December, 1852, as per last annual report	£50,727	8	8
Net profit of the year, after payment of the charge of management, and the income tax, and making due provision for all bad and doubtful debts, and an allowance in reduction of the cost of bank premises and fittings, and a provision against the expense about to be incurred in building bank premises in Bristol	£33,672	13	11
Half-yearly dividend on the old shares, at the rate of £8 per cent. per annum, to 30th June, 1853	£10,691	10	0
Half-yearly dividend on the old shares, at the rate of £8 per cent. per annum, to 31st December, 1853.	10,691	10	0
Pro rata dividend on new bank shares allotted to the proprietors, at 31st December, 1852, being all the dividend due on them to the 31st December, 1853	3,848	17	0
		25,231	17 0
To be added to the reserve fund	8,440	16	11
Leaving at the credit of reserve fund		£59,168	5 7

It will be satisfactory to the proprietors to know that the issue of new

shares, announced in the last annual report, has been successfully carried out; and that the capital of the bank has thereby been increased with advantage to the company.

The report and dividend having been agreed to, the usual votes of thanks were carried.

DEVON AND CORNWALL BANKING COMPANY.

THE twenty-second annual meeting of the proprietors of this bank was held at Plymouth, February 10th, Mr. W. Prance in the chair, when the following report was adopted:—

The directors of the Devon and Cornwall Banking Company have much pleasure in meeting the shareholders to present to them the twenty-second annual report. The increased business of the bank, together with the improved value of money, during the latter part of the past year, enable the directors to congratulate the shareholders on the return of a larger amount of net profit than in many foregoing years. The directors have continued their periodical visits to the branches, and have carefully examined all their accounts, and they must pronounce the branches, and the bank generally, to be both prosperous and safe. The directors have been lately called to mourn over a breach in their board, occasioned by the death of their esteemed colleague, the late Mr. William Stuart; they have felt it to be due to his memory to place a resolution on their minutes, which they embody in their report, as follows: "That the directors cannot proceed with their official duties without first placing on the records of the bank an expression of the unfeigned sorrow which the intelligence of the decease of their late highly-esteemed friend and colleague has occasioned them, as well as a deserved testimony to his uprightness and integrity, to his regularity and zeal in attending to the interests of the bank during a period of sixteen years, and to the urbanity and courtesy which graced and rendered pleasant his long-continued intercourse with the board of directors and its officers." The company consists of 218 shareholders, holding 4,000 shares, the paid-up capital being £100,000. The directors who retire from office are Mr. Pinsent, Dr. Cookworthy, and Mr. Gibson; the company will fill up the vacancies in accordance with the provisions of the deed of settlement. They will also fill up the vacancy occasioned by the decease of the late Mr. Stuart. The directors annex a summary of the affairs of the bank, as in former years, and recommend this meeting to order the payment of a dividend of £1 2s. 6d. per share, which in addition to the dividend of £1 2s. 6d. per share, paid on the 1st of September, will be at the rate of 9 per cent. per annum on the paid-up capital, without any deduction on account of income tax. The directors further recommend this meeting to order the payment of 5s. per share, out of the profits of the past year, in addition to, and at the same time with the proposed dividend, as after such payment, as well as after having given sundry gratuities to the officers and clerks of the bank, there will remain added to the guarantee fund during the year, the sum of £2,010 2s. 11d., making the total amount of the guarantee fund at the close of the year £23,552 13s. 8d.

Devon and Cornwall Banking Company, 1853.

Dr.—Subscribed capital	.. .. .	£100,000	0	0
Deposits on current accounts, interest, &c.		748,948	13	10
Guarantee fund to Dec., 1852	£21,542	10	9	
Added to guarantee fund, 1853	2,010	2	11	
		23,552	13	8
		£872,501	7	6

Cr.—Advances on securities, current accounts, bills of exchange, estate, bank notes and gold at Plymouth and branches			
			£872,501 7 6

Profit and Loss Account.

PAID.			
Interest on deposits, discounts, expenses of establishment, appropriated loss, income tax, &c.		£37,450	3 10
Dividend paid 1st Sept., 1853 ..	£4,500	0 0	
Reserved for dividend ..	4,500	0 0	
Do. for further payment ..	1,000	0 0	
		10,000	0 0
Added to guarantee fund		2,010	2 11
		£49,460	6 9

RECEIVED.			
Interest, commission and discounts		£49,460	6 9

AUSTRALIAN JOINT-STOCK BANK.

THE half-yearly meeting of the proprietors of this bank took place at Sydney, on the 24th of January, when the following report was adopted:—

In presenting to the proprietors the report of this bank's proceedings for the half-year ending 31st December, 1853—the first half-year that the bank has been in active operation—the directors trust that the result will meet with approval.

As recommended in the report adopted at the last half-yearly meeting, the earnings of the bank up to that period have been left undivided, viz.:—

			£2,486 15 9
To which are to be added the profits for the half-year, amounting to	£6,912	19 1	
Less 10 per cent. carried to reserve fund	691	5 11	
		6,221	13 2
Leaving at the credit of profit and loss		£8,708	8 11

The reserve fund will thus be increased to £967 12s. 1d. Taking into consideration the prevailing low rates of interest, and that this establishment is yet in its infancy, the directors consider the above statement as most satisfactory, and hope that the proprietary will look upon it in the same light, and would recommend that a dividend be declared for the half-year at the rate of 4 per cent. on the paid-up capital of £125,000, which will require—

			£5,000 0 0
And leave for equalisation of future dividends ..	3,708	8 11	
		£8,708	8 11

The whole of the called-up capital has been paid, and the charter of incorporation has received the assent of the Governor-general.

During the past half-year an agency has been established at the Ovens Gold Fields, under the superintendence of Mr. G. Long, for the purchase of gold dust, and receiving deposits, to be accounted for in Sydney, and during

the short time it has been in operation has worked well, and provided a great auxiliary in placing funds in London, for exchange operations.

Mr. Alexander Hart, having resigned his appointment as manager, the directors have appointed Mr. Ashton Boyce Ottley, formerly accountant, to fill his place.

A dividend was declared at the rate of 4 per cent. for the half-year.

COMMERCIAL BANKING COMPANY OF SYDNEY.

At a general meeting of the shareholders, held at the banking house, Sydney, on the 24th of January, the following report was presented:—

Upon the present occasion the directors are gratified in being again able to submit to the meeting statements of the affairs of this institution, such as they conceive cannot fail to be highly satisfactory to the proprietors.

The profits on the 31st December, 1853, after paying all expenses of the half-year then ending, amounted to	£17,961	11	10
The undivided profit of previous half-year was ..	2,578	13	2
And thus the amount available for appropriation is..	20,540	5	0
From this sum the directors now declare a dividend for the half-year at the rate of 15 per cent. per annum	£15,000	0	0
And they have added to the reserve fund	3,000	0	0
And left at the credit of profit and loss	2,540	5	0
	£20,540	5	0

The directors regret that the progress of the erection of the new bank has been unavoidably tedious; but on the assurance of the architect, they venture to express confident hopes that in June next the premises will be finished, and will afford that enlarged accommodation now so necessary for conducting the daily operations of the company with order and regularity.

To bring concisely under the notice of the proprietors the progressive increase of the bank's business since the 1st January, 1851, the directors call attention to the following particulars, extracted from the balances of the last four years, at 31st December:—

	1850.	1851.
Deposits	£202,341 18 10	£289,407 10 3
Notes in circulation	48,118 0 0	107,507 10 0
Coin, bullion, and government securities	113,489 6 8	148,210 16 3
Bills discounted, &c.	249,634 12 9	377,937 4 0
	1852.	1853.
Deposits	£543,936 17 6	£992,146 16 4
Notes in circulation	149,412 10 0	218,892 10 0
Coin, bullion and government securities	324,288 7 2	494,470 3 5
Bills discounted, &c.	327,828 15 5	653,879 3 11

And it affords the directors pleasure to add that the business still continues steadily increasing.

The dividend will be payable on and after Wednesday, the 25th instant.

The report having been read, it was received and adopted.

Liabilities and Assets on Saturday, the 31st December, 1853.

<i>Dr.</i> —To capital paid up	£200,000	0	0
Notes in circulation	218,892	10	0
Deposits and other liabilities	992,146	16	4
Reserve fund	14,000	0	0
Profit and loss account:—			
Undivided profit last half-year	£2,578	13	2
Amount carried to account this half-year	21,266	3	0
		23,844	16 2
	£1,448,884	2	6
<i>Cr.</i> —By coin and bullion	£451,170	3	5
Government securities	43,300	0	0
Balances due by other banks	284,182	7	9
Bills discounted, and all other debts due to the bank	653,879	3	11
Landed property and building materials	16,352	7	5
	£1,448,884	2	6

Profit and Loss Account.

<i>Dr.</i> —To salaries, directors' remuneration, and incidental expenses	£3,304	11	2
Dividend account for payment of dividend for the half-year, at 15 per cent. per annum	15,000	0	0
Reserve fund amount added thereto	3,000	0	0
Balance, being undivided profit	2,540	5	0
	£23,844	16	2
<i>Cr.</i> —By balance from first half-year.	£2,578	13	2
Amount carried to account this half-year	21,266	3	0
	£23,844	16	2

BANK OF MADRAS.

Statement of the Affairs of the Bank of Madras at 31st December, 1853.

ASSETS.

Government securities	Rs. 5,13,277	12	6
Cash credits on deposit of government securities.	5,27,498	10	3
Loans on deposit of ditto and bullion	14,90,826	12	3
Government bills discounted	1,19,348	8	10
Private ditto	5,57,791	3	6
Bank of Bengal	50,272	0	10
Bank of Bombay	10,708	6	5
Dead stock	26,434	10	4
Balance of cash on hand	36,48,470	14	10
	Rs. 69,44,628	15	9

LIABILITIES.

Bank notes and post bills in circulation ..	..	17,14,664	0	0
Deposits	..	21,29,813	15	8
Proprietors' capital	..	30,00,000	0	0
Reserved fund and profits for half-year ended ..	..	1,00,151	0	1

Rs. 69,44,628 15 9

Reserved fund	Rs. 35,216	10	1
Net profit for half-year	..	64,934	6 0

Rs. 1,00,151 0 1

Dividend, at 4½ per cent. per annum, on capital	Rs. 67,500	0	0
Balance of reserved fund	..	32,651	0 1

Rs. 1,00,151 0 1

J. S. SPENCE, Accountant.

BANK OF BOMBAY.

Statement of the Affairs of the Bank of Bombay, on the 31st December, 1853.

Dr.	Indian Currency.	English Currency.
To proprietors' capital ..	Rs. 52,25,000 0 0	£522,500 0 0
Bank notes and post bills in circulation	52,64,627 12 6	526,462 15 7
Deposits and all other liabilities ..	49,51,114 12 9	495,111 9 9
Reserved surplus fund, including net profit for the half-year	2,06,934 11 4	£20,693 9 5
	Rs. 1,56,47,677 4 7	£1,564,767 14 9

Ca.	Indian Currency.	English Currency.
By Government securities ..	Rs. 35,71,774 8 0	£357,177 9 0
Loans and cash credit accounts ..	26,59,772 15 8	265,977 5 11
Bills discounted	12,92,378 9 9	129,237 17 6
Other securities	3,27,417 2 9	32,741 14 3
Cash on hand	77,96,334 0 5	779,633 8 1
	Rs. 1,56,47,677 4 7	£1,564,767 14 9

Profit and Loss Account.

Dr.	Indian Currency.	English Currency.
To six months' dividend on the capital stock, at the rate of 6 per cent. per ann., paid 6th July, 1853..	Rs. 1,56,750 0 0	£15,675 0 0
Six months' dividend, at the rate of 6½ per cent. per annum, payable on the 12th inst.	1,69,812 8 0	16,981 5 0
Balance of reserved surplus fund ..	37,122 3 4	3,712 4 5
	Rs. 3,63,684 11 4	£36,368 9 5

Ca.	Indian Currency.	English Currency.
By balance of reserved surplus fund on the 31st December, 1852	Rs. 20,580 7 10	£2,058 0 11
Net profit for the year ending the 31st Dec., 1853, after paying all the current expenses of the bank	3,43,104 3 6	34,310 8 6
	<u>Rs. 3,63,684 11 4</u>	<u>£36,368 9 5</u>

Published for the information of the proprietors,

By order of the board of directors,

Bombay, 4th Jan., 1854.

JOHN STUART, *Secretary and Treasurer.*

Communications

To the Editor of the Bankers' Magazine.

CURRENCY DOCTRINES.

SIR,—Until enlightened by the article of the 10th instant, by the monetary economist of *The Times*, I had imagined that the able and lucid essays which have from time to time appeared in the various publications of the day, had completely settled the true principles on which credit is based. From want of clearly-defined terms, such as ought to be stated with the mathematical accuracy of axioms, in treating upon this subject, each writer gives his views in terms that will not by another be received in the sense intended; and this ambiguity, in a great measure, accounts for the mystification and obscurity that attends every endeavour to elucidate its laws and principles.

The essence of these principles is embodied in the word *trust*, and the receiving back your own when wanted. The complicated state of associations that a highly-organised civilisation engenders, and the prominence which many of its facts assume, seem to give them all the characteristics of causes; but an investigation through their different ramifications, proves them to be only the effects of principles difficult to trace through the complicated mystification of misunderstood terms.

When the sacred art of gastronomy was, through the medium of the cuisinier's daily bill of fare, submitted to the sojourner at the Astor Hotel, after turning over the gilded leaves of the handsomely-bound volume, and endeavouring in vain to cull something from its mystic contents, he said his bewildered mind was compelled to resort to first principles, and he ordered beans and bacon. Had Sir Robert Peel, in his place in the House of Commons, asked what was a knight of the shire, an instant answer would be, a representative of the people; or had he asked a question of classic lore, he would have been answered by acclamation; but when he asked what was a pound, not one of that assembly could answer that it was the representative of so many lbs. of beef, mutton, cheese, or wheat: no; the Commons of 1844 were no more in a condition to deal with the motion of the currency than the Board of Customs, before the St. Katherine Dock affair, with the commerce of the country; and the tinkering of Parliament with the institutions that the community devise to facilitate and improve their condition, will always meet with disaster and indignation. Had the Currency Act of 1844 been made, in

accordance with its principles, as perfect as the Corn Law of 1815, it could not have survived a year, as it must have embraced credit in every form. In a commercial point of view, the difference between a sovereign and a note is, that one represents value universally and the other nationally. Value being the accumulated result of labour, whatever labour most accumulates must be most valuable; and whatever may represent this, whether it be gold or credit, is but a conventional agreement to receive it as such. In principle, a note is a bill of exchange, both performing the same offices, and subject to the same laws of equity and revenue, and between which a court of justice recognises no legal difference; and in several counties bills of exchange enter largely into active circulation.

Acting strictly up to the principle of restricting credit to the alone recognised representative—namely, gold, or the accumulated products of labour why did not Sir Robert Peel require from the banks of the United Kingdom a return as well of the bills of exchange, inland and foreign, and arbitrarily limit them equally with their issues to that return? The reasons are two.—Such a law would interfere with those for whose special protection this act was passed; and, in the next place, he dared not.

The business of a capitalist and that of a banker is in many respects widely different; and although seemingly dealing in the same article, their modes of action are far from being identical. Capital has always looked to Sir Robert Peel as its representative; and when the fluctuations of trade demanded a scape-goat, the representative of capital was readily supplied, with all the facts and arguments bearing favourably on the case. And who, knowing the high talent possessed by that gentleman, and his extraordinary ability in debate, could doubt of the result, when addressed to gentlemen by predilection favourably inclined to his views? But the extension of this act to bills of exchange would have been a death-blow to the bill brokers, and have confined capitalists to the funds, foreign stocks, and adventures. To them the confining this measure solely to bank issues was highly protective, increasing the value of the resources at their command; thus enabling them to realise larger profits from the exchanging of the accumulated products of labour. Had the act applied with equal stringency to limit the sphere of bills of exchange, a power would have been brought against it, the first burst of which would have scattered it to the winds. But as the act confers a monopoly on a powerful, dominant class, we must wait until the true untrammelled principles of unrestricted commercial action shall be incontrovertibly established.

In considering the principle of bank issue, it is requisite to view it in two lights, namely, the relation it bears to capital and to credit. Capital, in its most accepted term, is gold, and its operations are universal; confined to no nation, nor regulated by any law. It is a universal language, that binds and civilises the human race: its actions are capricious, independent, and uncontrollable, and recognises no master but that of self-interest: when it wishes to depart, you cannot retain it; and it will come unsolicited, and when not wanted; upsetting your best laid schemes, and deranging your most carefully constructed plans. Man, while appreciating its blessings, felt its all-biting sting; therefore, instinctively trusting to the sagacity of his race, devised that system called "credit," or extension of time, to dispose of the accumulated surplus products of labour, and thus endeavour to counteract its capricious effects, and construct a counterpoise that will gradually, and at an even rate, counterbalance it. The perfection of this system would be attained when so constructed, that it would admit of surplus production to be exchanged at a profit. To reduce this to a science, it would naturally be thought that the functions to be performed would be, to keep the representative of labour in a uniform medium position. The common sense mode to perform this, one would suppose, would be, when the uncontrollable and universal mediums of

exchange became redundant, that the national and controllable be subject to an equivalent diminution. But just suppose a council of sages deciding, that when the universal comes unasked, your national may be increased by an equivalent; but when the universal departs, let it be ever so welcome to stay, your national must be reduced by an equal amount. It is truly carrying to its greatest stretch, that "to him that hath, more shall be added; but from him that hath not, shall be taken even that which he seemeth to have."

The perfect understanding of its principles is, when you can decide positively whether the action be with capital or credit; and he who intuitively possesses this quality, is at the head of his profession.

When the produce of labour is at par with the metallic currency, it ceases to possess a remunerative property, and to persevere in expending further labour in its production, would but lead to a disastrous result. Here gold will not purchase it at its real value; and to do so by credit, would be but an aggravation of the evil. In such a case it is a pure and simple transaction of capital, and by it alone must be dealt with; but did this article afford a fair price above its value, although from unavoidable and immediately uncontrollable causes it could not there and then be disposed of, then credit can beneficially step in, and, by its support, supply the absent element to perfect the system.

Accepting as correct the hypothetical construction put upon the currency law of 1844, it would be well to see reconciled to it, by conclusive logical deductions, the several facts that the currency has exhibited in connection with the Bank of England. When pressure had reduced the bullion to so low an ebb, that to gain time to avert an act of bankruptcy, and to devise such measures as could meet this seemingly hopeless position, they had to resort to the expediency of paying in sixpences, with an almost empty bullion exchequer and bankruptcy staring in the face, it was next day determined to meet the danger boldly in the face, by an issue of notes. By the touch of this magic wand, common sense reasserted its place; and the bewildered mind, with reassured confidence, began to ask what really could it have been about? The same tragedy, in a minor degree, was re-enacted in 1847. Again, during the railway mania, with Consols at par and millions pouring into the banks to comply with the standing orders of Parliament, why was it that the issues were as calm and undisturbed as the bosom of a placid lake? What a parallel does it afford to the philosopher, who having theoretically established the conviction that animal life can exist without the intervention of the alimentary system, by the judicious application of the homœopathic system of a daily reduction, by almost imperceptible degrees, the animal was brought to subsist on one straw a day! At this interesting stage, somehow or other, the horse died. It having been proved, by repeated experiments, that a horse can be made to subsist on one straw, it becomes manifest that the principle is correct; death being inherent and subject to control neither by time, place, nor event, it becomes evident that it has nothing to do with the principle under consideration.

Let it be assumed that twenty millions of railway deposits are paid into the Bank of England, which would permit an issue to that amount to be gradually absorbed by the country; and which, with such an addition to its stock of bullion, the bank would feel itself legitimately called upon to do. This is suddenly withdrawn in bullion for constructive purposes, and legally demand an equal reduction of bank notes. What effect would a sudden action of forty millions have on the commercial industry of the country? Would it not shake it to its centre? Railway construction is exclusively conducted by a metallic medium, and a return of this abstracted capital could not be made under six months. A similar action, in a minor degree, had a very short time ago been made by the Emperor of Russia, which reduced the

usefulness of the bank's credit to double the amount withdrawn. It is a strange phenomenon in the history of England's economy to see one of the largest, most legitimate, and most prosperous commercial years brought to a most successful close, in the face of a harvest deficient by one-third, not only in Britain, but generally over Europe. Could any one conscientiously assert that this could have been done ten years ago? Does it not derive its support from the constant and continuing supply of gold? From actual observation, I find that there is twice the amount of gold in circulation to what there has been at any former time, so far as my experience extends. And can any one doubt but that this seasonable supply has filled up the vacuum which the act of 1844 had made?

That Scotland prefers a note currency from a mere sneaking regard to a child of its own creation, to this I demur. Whether true or not, it is certainly proverbial that the natives of that country are keenly alive to, and ready to seize on, whatever is most advantageous to the successful development of either agriculture or commerce. How is it that during a period of 150 years the loss to the public by banks of issue in that country has been under £26,000? It is my belief, that had not Scotland been supported in its commerce by its circulation, it would this day be far inferior to Ireland in its prosperity, commerce, and wealth.

I am, &c.,

13th February, 1854.

A. F. N.

BILLS OF EXCHANGE,

SIR,—Will you be kind enough to inform me in your next, what is the best authority on the "Law of Bills of Exchange," also the publisher's name and price.

April 4th, 1854.

I am, sir, yours obediently,

L. O. B.

[We think *Byles* on Bills, published by *Sweet*, is very good. We are not able to give the price.]

CHEQUES DRAWN IN THE ISLE OF MAN, AND THE STAMP LAWS.

SIR,—You will confer a great favour upon many residents in this place, if you will enlighten them, as to whether a cheque drawn from here on a London banker does or does not require a stamp. No act of the British legislature affecting this island unless it be therein especially included.

I remain, sir, yours much obliged,

"TATUS IN UNDIS."

Douglas, Isle of Man,

March 24th, 1854.

[We think a cheque drawn in the Isle of Man would come under the denomination of a foreign bill of exchange, and would not require an English stamp, but probably a London banker would prefer to see such a cheque stamped with the penny draft stamp, and we think he might reasonably require it should be stamped.]

DEPOSIT RECEIPT—DECEASE OF DEPOSITOR.

SIR,—Would you oblige me with your opinion in the following case:—

Richard Lewis, jun., an unmarried labouring man, deposits in my office £14, for which he receives the usual official acknowledgment, known as a

deposit receipt. Soon after he leaves his home, where he has been living with his father, to work at a distance, and is not heard of for more than three years; when the father informs me that his son is recently dead; produces the receipt, and requests payment of principal and interest.

What course should I pursue to obtain a legal discharge for the amount?

April 4th, 1854.

I am, dear sir, yours most truly,

A WELSH MANAGER.

[We fear that a perfectly legal discharge can only be given by the administrator, but as the father is the party entitled to administer, and as the sum is so small, we should be satisfied with his discharge. We assume there is proof of the death, and that there is no will.]

DRAFTS ON LONDON AGENTS ON PENNY STAMPS.

SIR,—Permit me to ask you, for the general benefit of the banking community, whether, under the recent Stamp Act, a country bank might issue drafts on their London agents in the following form, upon a draft stamp of one penny.



The Banking Company.
On demand, pay to A B, Esq., or bearer, five pounds,
value received.
To Messrs. Bankers, London,
No. Place, date, ... 1853. No.
For the Directors and Company.

..... Manager.

Five.

Also whether this draft might be engraved, so as to have the appearance of a country note.

And if so, whether it might be re-issued by the country bank, after being paid, either by itself or by its London agents, without being restamped.

I am, sir, your obedient servant,

A MANAGER.

[We think drafts stamped with one penny, in this form, and engraved, may be issued by a country banker now entitled to issue, but we do not think they could be re-issued.]

CHEQUES PAYABLE TO BEARER, AND ENDORSED TO ORDER.

SIR,—In reply to a letter signed “Dalcas” in your number for this month, enquiring whether a check *on a penny stamp*, payable to C. D. or *bearer*, can by being endorsed by C. D. to E. F. or *order*, be restrained by such endorsement, you say that the point is not free from doubt.

Unless there be some special legal grounds for doubt, it seems clear enough. The banker is answerable to the drawer, and if the drawer make a check payable to *bearer*, how can any one merely by being a holder, acquire a right to restrain it? Being simply payable to *bearer*, it appears to me that the banker need take no cognizance of any endorsement whatever.

I remain your obedient servant,

E. P.

Dorchester, April 12th, 1854.

[Our correspondent is probably right, but still we are not free from doubt. It is difficult to say what construction may be put upon ambiguous and novel instruments, or what liabilities the various parties to them may incur. The

case of *Tucker v. Roberts* threw much unanticipated responsibility on bankers, and the law of crossed cheques (which are in some measure analogous to a cheque payable to bearer, and then endorsed to order) is hardly now perfectly settled.]

THE CURRENCY ACT OF 1844.

SIR,—The main provisions of the Currency Act of 1844 were founded upon the erroneous principle that country bankers had the power of regulating at will the circulation of the country, instead of being, as they really were, in respect to their issues at least, mere passive instruments in the hands of the public: the clearest evidence having proved that not one of them could put out and keep in circulation a single note unrequired by the business wants of his district. The legislature, however, succeeded in putting an unfair and arbitrary restriction upon the country issues of notes, which were practically self-regulating, and guiltless, moreover, of all the grave charges laid against them; but it did not choose to meddle with the *deposits*, by means of which nearly all the evils of reckless banking had really been perpetrated. Notwithstanding the great injustice inflicted upon the country banks by the operation of the act in question, they have, much to their credit as a body, given it a fair and honest trial, refraining from taking advantage of the loopholes the act itself afforded to evade the spirit of its provisions. By one or two banks only, up to the present time have drafts on London, payable to order (although strictly within the letter of the law), been used for purposes of circulation. Now, however, under colour of the Stamp Act of last year, a bold attempt is made by a northern banker, apparently more wise in his day and generation than any of his fellows, to defeat the restrictive provisions of the act of 1844. His plan is to issue drafts for *five pounds*, drawn by one of his branch managers on the head office of his bank. The order bears a penny stamp, is on a steel engraved form, payable to bearer, and is all but identical in shape and appearance with his ordinary five-pound note. It runs thus, with merely an alteration of the names:—

Five.	“Blunderdale Union Banking Company. Queerith, 21st April, 1854. No. 310. To the Blunderdale Union Banking Company, Idlington. Pay the <i>Bearer</i> the sum of Five pounds. Five pounds.”	Five.
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Joint-
Stock.

V. V. ———.

Now, if the late Stamp Act really intended to allow, or if its letter, whether intentional or not, really allows the issue of such paper, then the gentleman who has made the discovery, and who thus boldly acts upon it, deserves the warmest thanks, not only of the banking community, but of the public at large. Strong doubts however exist as to the legality of the step, and I therefore beg to solicit the Editor's opinion on the subject.

The Stamp Act of last year, it is presumed, only substituted the penny stamp on drafts or bills payable *on demand*, for the stamps payable on similar documents, by the schedule of the Act 1815, and would thus leave untouched the laws affecting the circulation. It is therefore to be feared that the following clause in the Act of 1844, (7 & 8, Vict., Cap. 32, Sec. 11,)

will be held to render illegal the drafts or orders in question, seeing they are issued by a banker.

"And be it enacted, That from and after the passing of this Act, it shall not be lawful for any Banker to draw, accept, make, or issue in England or Wales, any Bill of Exchange or Promissory Note, or Engagement for the Payment of Money payable to Bearer on Demand, or to borrow, owe, or take up, in England or Wales, any sum or sums of money on the Bills or Notes of such Banker, payable to Bearer on Demand, save and except that it shall be lawful for any Banker who was on the Sixth day of May, One thousand eight hundred and forty-four, carrying on the Business of a Banker in England or Wales, and was then lawfully issuing in England or Wales, his own Bank Notes, under the authority of a licence to that effect, to continue to issue such notes to the extent, and under the conditions hereinafter mentioned, but not further or otherwise."

I am, &c.,

21st April, 1854.

C. D.

[Banks entitled to issue, when the 7 & 8 Vict., c. 32, passed, may still do so, and where they find it advantageous to use the penny stamp, instead of compounding for the duty, we apprehend there is no objection to their adopting that course. We agree with our correspondent that the 16th and 17th Vict., c. 59, was not intended to interfere with the laws relating to the circulation. The specimen of the instrument sent seems objectionable. If it had been payable to order, instead of to bearer, the case might be different. The substantial question seems to be, are bankers justified in resorting to these expedients, assuming they are not violations of the law? Whenever the question has been brought before the Law Courts, as it was by the Bank of England, when the London Joint-Stock Banks attempted to infringe what it considered its privileges, those courts have considered and decided on the spirit and meaning, rather than the exact words of the statutes.]

CHEQUE DATED WITHIN LEGAL DISTANCE, AND ISSUED BEYOND IT.

SIR,—An answer to the following query, in the next number of the Magazine, will oblige :—

Does a cheque dated in London, drawn in the usual form on a banking house there, payable to "bearer," and issued beyond the legal distance from the banking house, require the penny draft stamp?

I am, sir, your obedient Servant,

A BANK TELLER.

19th April, 1854.

[Yes, it requires the penny draft stamp. The place of date is untrue.]

DEPOSIT RECEIPTS.

SIR,—My time has been so much occupied of late, that I had overlooked "Old Banker's" communication on this subject in your November number. For his information, I may assure him that "J. W." and "Old Stager" (whose statements coincide) are strangers to each other, and not identical (as he insinuates, but wherefore is not very intelligible); neither were either of their letters in your April number (1853) written "by anticipation," but in reply to a query by "Cashier," in a previous number; as, no doubt, "Old Banker" would have discovered, had he taken the trouble to examine the matter more curiously.

"Old Banker" proceeds in strong terms to "deny" that the practice of granting a deposit receipt in name of two persons, and "payable to either," prevails in the banking world in England, and in Scotland more especially. Now, it so happens that I am personally cognizant of such being a very common practice, and I cannot see any reason, in all that "Old Banker" has stated, to cause me to depart from my belief in the utility and perfect legality of documents so framed. I have been considerably upwards of twenty years a banker, the major portion of which I spent in the employment of one of the principal (chartered) joint-stock banks of Scotland, whose invariable practice it was, both at the head office and branches, to grant deposit receipts in names of more than one person, "payable to either," and the legality of these documents was never disputed.

Since "Old Banker" first startled you on this subject, I have separately consulted a lawyer, eminent at the Scotch bar, and an English solicitor of recognised ability, as to the power of a banker to grant a deposit receipt in name of two parties made "payable to either," and as to the sufficiency of a discharge of the obligation to the bank, when such discharge is granted by only one of those parties. They are as one upon these points, holding that there is nothing to prevent the legal competency of such a contract, and that the indorsement of one or other of the parties, accompanied by a delivery of the document, is a sufficient discharge to the bank; any claim by the other party whose name is expressed in the receipt, or by his representatives, being simply a question between the two depositors, with which the banker has no concern whatever.

I am, your obedient servant,

Northumberland, 15th March, 1854.

OLD STAGER.

Notes of the Month.

NEWLY INVENTED SPURIOUS COIN.—Within the last few days Mr. Webster, the Inspector-General of Coins to Her Majesty's Mint, has received some counterfeit shillings, bearing date of those issued in 1852, and which more perfectly represent the genuine coin than anything ever yet put in circulation. Their difference from the ordinary bad money is, that they are struck with a beautifully executed die from a hard white metal, which is subsequently strongly electro-plated. Their being struck from dies renders them to all appearance perfect in this respect, that the rim and nerling is cut quite sharp and complete, whereas in the Britannia metal base coin hitherto circulated, that being cast in moulds and poured in from the edge of the mould, the outer rim of the coin is always faulty, and a very cursory inspection of that part would suffice to detect it. The component parts of the metal from which they are struck are copper, nickel, and zinc, in the following proportions,—copper, 64·26 per cent., nickel, 15·71, and the rest zinc, which is, in reality, German silver. The shillings weigh 5 grains light of a genuine one of the same year, and 3 grains heavy of a George III. of 1822. The metal being so hard, the coin detectors will not expose the fraud, but they may be known by the ring, which is very bad. It is believed that they came from Birmingham.

THE NEW BILL ON COMMON LAW PROCEDURE.—The Lord Chancellor's bill for the further amendment of the process, practice, and mode of pleading in and enlarging the jurisdiction of the superior courts of common

law at Westminster, has been printed by order of the House of Lords. It contains 100 provisions. It is proposed to enact that a judge of the superior courts may, by consent, try questions of fact. Two judges may sit at the same time for trial of causes pending in the same court. The court or judge is to be empowered to direct an arbitration before trial. A special case may be stated, and question of fact tried. An arbitrator may state a special case. There are several clauses with respect to matters referred to arbitration. Regarding juries, some material alterations are to be made. The qualifications of jurors are raised to £30 a-year rating. Common juries may be made up of persons qualified to serve on special and common juries. Jurors are to have, on the payment of 1s., a certificate to exempt them from further service for a certain period. A jury is to be discharged after twelve hours if they cannot agree, unless they desire further time; "and they may during such time be furnished with fitting accommodation and necessary refreshment by leave of the judge, and, at the expiration of such time, if they cannot agree, they shall be discharged, and an entry of the fact of such discharge shall be made upon the back of the record, and the costs of such abortive trial shall be costs in the cause." Upon the discharge of a jury the cause may be tried again. "It shall be lawful for the court or judge at the trial of any cause, when they or he may deem it right for the purposes of justice, to order an adjournment for such time, and subject to such terms and conditions as to costs and otherwise, as they or he may think fit." If any person called as a witness shall refuse from conscientious motives to be sworn, the court, upon being satisfied of the sincerity of such objection, is to permit such witness, instead of being sworn, to make a declaration, which is set forth, which declaration is to have the same force and penalties attached to it as an oath. On certain points a party may discredit his own witness. A comparison of disputed writing is to be permitted. In case of an unstamped document or insufficiency of duty, it is not to be read, unless the same be paid to the officer of the court, with £1 additional penalty. On application for a new trial, whether the rule is made absolute or not, a right of appeal is to be given. The Court of Error, the Exchequer Chamber, and the House of Lords are to be courts of appeal. Oral examination may be allowed on motions. Another important alteration to be effected by this measure is with reference to judgment debtors. A creditor, who has obtained a judgment in a superior court, may require his debtor to attend before a master, and be examined as to debts owing him, and they may be attached for the payment of the particular debt, which attachment is to be binding. Rules and orders are to be made to carry out the present second measure on common law procedure, which is to take effect on the 24th of October next.

SAVINGS BANKS.—In November last the number of depositors in savings banks in the United Kingdom was 1,237,301; the amount of their deposits, £31,399,593. Besides these depositors, 13,709 charitable institutions had £674,489 in savings banks, and 8,293 friendly societies had £1,277,493. There were 577 other friendly societies which had direct accounts with the National Debt Commissioners, and whose funds in the commissioners' hands amounted to £2,386,225. Of the 1,237,301 depositors in savings banks, there were 192,449 (male and female) with deposits exceeding £50.

THE BANK OF MADRAS.—This bank is in a curious position. Three several meetings of shareholders have been called for the purpose of filling up vacancies in its direction, but called in vain, no party having presented himself as a candidate for the office. Under these circumstances another meeting has been summoned for the consideration of the subject. It appears that the dis-

inclination of qualified persons to sit at the board arises from an offensive letter addressed to it by Government some year or two since. Folks do not like putting themselves in the way of another affront of the same nature. While they are discussing the question of their relation towards the state, we hope that the shareholders will not neglect to take steps for the removal of the disabilities under which the bank labours in respect of its business. Power to extend the field of operations, at the discretion of the directors, ought to be had. The bank has a plethora of unproductive cash, apparently perennial; and is, in consequence, but a poor paying concern. Were it suffered to deal in exchange and other business now denied to it, the half-yearly balance sheets would soon show a different result.—*Madras Spectator*.

MERCANTILE FAILURE.—The suspension of Messrs. Thomson, Brothers, and Sons, calico printers, of Primrose, near Clitheroe, was reported on the 19th of January. The meeting of creditors took place on the 20th, at the Palatine Hotel, Manchester. Mr. Sale (of the firm of Sale, Worthington, and Shipman, solicitors, Manchester), on behalf of the principal creditors and committee, explained the position of affairs; and it appeared from his statement that the total liabilities are £120,000, of which £50,000 are secured by mortgages. The open accounts are £70,000, and the open assets (or assets not including the mortgages) are £84,000. The largest creditors are the Craven Bank, £43,000; and Mr. Fort, Reade-hall, £30,000. Mr. Fort holds the first mortgage on the property of the firm for £30,000, and the Craven Bank hold a second mortgage, which is for £20,000. A committee of consultation was appointed to advise with Messrs. Thomson. Great sympathy was expressed with the firm, and the proceedings were adjourned.

EXPORTS OF BULLION.—A statement of the exports of bullion from London during the year 1853, compiled by Messrs. Haggard and Pixley, shows the total to have been £21,196,600, of which £5,745,800 was in silver, and the remainder in gold. Of this aggregate of gold and silver, the proportions were—to India, China, and Mauritius 5,923,300; to Australia and New Zealand, £4,006,500; to the Continent, £9,420,800; to the Mediterranean, £1,080,200; to the West Indies, £375,000; to Brazil, £286,000; and to Africa, £104,800. With the exception of £530,600 sent to the Continent, almost the whole of the silver was to the East.

FAILURE OF MESSRS. DICKSON AND Co.—The failure of Messrs. Dickson and Co., of Glasgow, merchants, who were extensively engaged in the Australian trade, took place in February. The liabilities of the firm, although they had not been many years in business, will, it is believed, range from £200,000 to £300,000, but the assets are also likely to prove considerable.

JOINT-STOCK COMPANIES.—The registrar of joint-stock companies reports a list of 339 companies provisionally registered in 1853, and 124 completely registered. The list of companies provisionally registered comprises 35 assurance companies, 80 railway, 54 gas, 33 for other public works, 32 mining companies, 30 companies for conducting manufactures or working patents, 18 shipping companies, 3 land conveyance companies, 4 fishing companies, and 7 trading. Among the companies that proceeded to complete registration were 24 assurance companies, 39 gas, 4 other public works, 18 mining companies, 10 for conducting manufactures or working patents, 10 shipping companies, and 2 trading.

CUSTOMS' DUTIES.—The Board of Trade have just issued an account of the Customs' duties received during the past year, as compared with the two preceding years. The subjoined table shows the totals furnished by the ten leading articles; and it will be seen that the only items which fail to show a considerable increase over 1852 are tea, butter and cheese, and fruits, the first having been affected by the reduction of duties, and the last by the diminished supply consequent upon the currant blight:—

GROSS DUTY RECEIVED.

	1851.	1852.	1853.
Tea	£5,902,433	£5,985,484	£5,686,194
Tobacco	4,485,747	4,560,742	4,751,780
Sugar	3,651,989	3,639,953	3,913,727
Spirits	2,512,476	2,567,052	2,677,232
Wine	1,856,331	1,872,942	2,036,083
Grain and Flour	508,485	406,826	532,692
Coffee	445,739	438,076	463,665
Fruits	629,182	579,004	367,245
Silks.. ..	181,276	191,233	233,999
Butter and Cheese	251,290	213,892	191,453
Other articles	1,833,356	1,731,855	1,758,662
	<u>22,258,304</u>	<u>22,187,149</u>	<u>22,612,729</u>

BILLS OF EXCHANGE BILL.—Lord Brougham's Bill for the Registration of Dishonoured Bills of Exchange, and for speedy execution thereon, proposes to provide that bills of exchange and promissory notes may be protested by any attorney or solicitor, and that the holder of any protested bill or note which is duly stamped and free from erasures or alterations, may, at any time within six months after its becoming due, register it with the master of one of the three superior courts of law, and shall thereupon be entitled to judgment and execution against the parties to the bill or note, within six days after service of an order of the Court to that effect, to be given to him upon such registration; and power is left with the judge to direct execution, without personal service of the order, if it shall appear to him that the order has come to the knowledge of the party, or that he wilfully evades service of it. Such an order may be served out of the jurisdiction, but the period for obtaining execution is then to be extended beyond six days. The party served with the order may apply to the Court to stay execution, the application to be supported by an affidavit disclosing what would constitute a legal defence, and the Court may then stay execution, and direct a trial or a special case for the opinion of the Court; but execution is not to be stayed unless the party seeking to stay it give security for the payment of the bill and costs, or satisfy the Court that his signature has been forged, or that the title of the holder is affected with fraud, or that other circumstances exist to induce the Court to dispense with such security. Where the amount of the bill or note does not exceed £50, it may be registered in the County Court within the jurisdiction of which the acceptor or maker resides, and the proceedings may be in that Court. A judgment-order on a bill or note accepted, made, or endorsed within two months of bankruptcy is to be void.

THE PROVINCIAL INSURANCE COMPANY.—A branch of the Provincial Insurance Company, successfully established about two years ago at Wrexham, has been opened in London. The character of the gentlemen forming the

Metropolitan Board may be regarded as a guarantee of the success of the new branch. It is understood that strict economy in the management of the company has been observed by the directors, and that the Provincial Company presents to insurers an undoubtedly sound and healthy undertaking. The banking interests in the country, judging from the number of gentlemen connected with banking, whose names are upon the list of shareholders, show that this company is held in considerable estimation.

Reviews.

Aslist's Decimal Coinage, with a Proposal for Decimalizing our Weights and Measures of Length and Capacity. H. Silverlock, Wardrobe Terrace.

Decimal Coinage: a short and easy method of changing the present Currency into the Decimal system. By a Retired Merchant. Ridgway, Piccadilly.

An Examination into the Report and Evidence of the Committee on the Decimal Coinage. By Mr. T. W. Rathbone. Ridgway, Piccadilly.

THESE several dissertations on the Decimal question deserve perusal, the whole of them being calculated to prepare the public for the change which will, in all probability, shortly take place. We would, however, especially call attention to Mr. Aslist's little volume, as calculated to explain the question in its various bearings, the application of the principle to weights and measures being clearly demonstrated.

British Statistics for the Half Century (1801 to 1851). By T. G. Darton. A. Darton, Crosby Hall.

A VALUABLE manual of facts and figures, arranged in a manner readily available for reference to the fluctuations in the funds, imports, exports, bank accounts, produce, &c., forming prominent features in the collection.

The Provident Times. Monthly. Houlston and Stoneman, Paternoster Row.

A PUBLICATION devoted to Life Assurance, Education, and other questions connected with the progress of the middle and lower classes, and well worthy of support from the soundness of the views expressed. In addition to these especial topics, there is a variety of general information afforded.

Ireland's Recovery; an Essay by John Locke. J. W. Parker and Son, West Strand.

MR. LOCKE is an able exponent of the evils from which the sister island has long suffered, and brings to his aid much valuable statistical information. In his present paper he discusses with ability the causes connected with the Celtic exodus, and the ultimate benefits likely to arise from the movement. Speaking of the agricultural and manufacturing position of the country, he stands forward as an advocate for an extension of the Irish banking system, and on this point remarks:—

“That an extension of the Irish banking system is requisite will be evident from the fact, that the total capital of the banks of Scotland (six chartered and fifteen unchartered) amounts to thirteen millions, or about five pounds

per head of the population, while the capital of the Irish banks (one chartered and eight unchartered) is only five millions, or about sixteen shillings and eight pence per head. Indeed, this straitened and inadequate circulation is the principal cause of our continual applications for government loans to accomplish public undertakings; it appears, therefore, to be not only the duty, but the interest of the imperial legislature to amend and enlarge our monetary system. This would have the double beneficial effect of unlocking the fishery and mineral wealth of the island, and of invigorating drooping manufactures—especially woollen, cotton, and leather."

BANK MOVEMENTS.

THE Bank of Portugal, by whom a protest was issued in January, 1853, against certain financial measures of the Government, have notified that they desire to cancel it, in consequence of the affair having been adjusted by mutual agreement.

THE directors of the Chartered Bank of India, China, and Australia have issued a notice to the effect that all shares on which the call of 2*l.* shall not have been paid by the 20th of April, will be forfeited. Original allottees who have parted with scrip which may be forfeited, are at the same time informed that they are bound to pay the call thereon; and that on their executing the deed of settlement, share certificates will be issued to them.

MR. W. COHEN, who has been acting manager of the Mercantile Bank, left Bombay on the 16th of February, by the *China* steamer, to establish and manage a branch at Ceylon.

THE directors of the Chartered Bank of Asia have issued notice that the deed of settlement will lie for execution from the 19th April, till the 19th of May, and that, after the execution of the deed it is their intention to convene a meeting of shareholders for the purpose of submitting to them a statement of the affairs of the bank.

ON Tuesday, the 4th of April last, the election for governor and deputy-governor of the Bank of England for the year ensuing took place, when John Gellibrand Hubbard, Esq., was chosen governor, and Thomas Matthias Wagnelin, Esq., deputy-governor; and, on Wednesday, the 5th of April, the election for 24 directors for the year ensuing took place, when the following gentlemen were elected:—Thomas Baring, Esq., Henry Wollaston Blake, Esq., Edward Henry Chapman, Esq., Robert Wigram Crawford, Esq., William Cotton, Esq., Benjamin Buck Greene, Esq., Henry Hucks Gibbs, Esq., Thomson Hankey, jun., Esq., John Oliver Hanson, Esq., John Benjamin Heath, Esq., Kirkman Daniel Hodgson, Esq., Henry Lancelot Holland, Esq., Thomas Newman Hunt, Esq., Charles Frederiek Huth, Esq., Alfred Latham, Esq., George Lyall, Esq., Thomas Masterman, Esq., Alexander Matheson, Esq., James Morris, Esq., George Warde Norman, Esq., John Horsley Palmer, Esq., Henry James Prescott, Esq., Thomas Charles Smith, Esq., Francis Wilson, Esq.

A CALL of 2l. 10s. falls payable on the new shares of the South Australian Banking Company, by the 1st of May.

ON the 5th of April, James Robert Stewart, Esq., was elected governor, and John Ennis, Esq., deputy-governor of the Bank of Ireland for the ensuing year.

THE directors of the Oriental Bank have notified the payment of a dividend of £1 15s. per share, free of income-tax, being 7 per cent. for the half-year on the paid-up capital.

The fifth and last call of £2 per share has been made by the directors of the London Chartered Bank of Australia.

Monetary Intelligence.

REVIEW OF THE MONEY MARKET FOR THE MONTH OF APRIL, 1854.

THE positive declaration of war, and the excitement occasioned by the prospect of immediate hostilities both in the Black Sea and the Baltic, have produced increased anxiety in financial circles. It is felt that the augmented expenditure necessary to maintain our armaments in an efficient state, however economically conducted, must eventually create disturbance in the money market, the earliest effects of which have been presented in the shape of a double income-tax and the proposed issue of Exchequer-bonds. Although Mr. Gladstone may be able through the latter operation to recruit the resources of Government, the position of the bank, unfavourably affected as it is by the continuous drain of bullion to the Continent, is not unlikely, if the existing demand remain unmitigated, to cause a further advance in the rate of discount. Arrivals of gold from Australia, together with the payment of the dividends, and the final liquidation of £2,035,818 by the Chancellor of the Exchequer to the dissentient holders of old South Sea Annuities created increased ease in the money market after the 8th of April, the terms for the negotiation of first-class paper descending from 5 and 5½ per cent. to 4½ and 4¼ per cent. The present quotation is 4¼ to 5 per cent., with a fair enquiry for accommodation, and the allowance for deposits in Lombard Street varies from 4 to 4½ per cent., according to the nature of the arrangement.

The range in the price of Consols during the month has reached about 4 per cent., but the speculative tendency has latterly received a check, the heavy transactions of the Bears keeping the market in a sensitive position. It is estimated that the sales for the fall comprise nearly £4,500,000 of stock, and the consequent scarcity caused a few days since a difference of ¾ per cent. between the money and the account quotation. That, however, has latterly been considerably diminished by the operations of the leading brokers, who have been lenders of stock to a considerable extent, taking the profit which the arrangement affords. The directors of the Bank of England have both sold and lent Consols, probably to the amount of about £1,500,000, which, in addition to the relief it has given themselves, has also been a great accommodation to the jobbers. The lowest point of quotations has been 85¼, from which there has been a general recovery, but the negotiation of the £6,000,000 Exchequer-bonds has again rather damped the market. The unfunded debt is slightly firmer, viz. :—par to 4s. premium.

Foreign securities have fluctuated, but not in the proportion they did in March. There has been greater steadiness in quotations, but the principal feature is a rise of from 5 to 6 per cent. in Russian, the operators not having

been able to deliver that which they had disposed of on speculative account. The temporary pressure experienced by the Bank of San Fernando, has not interfered much with the position of Spanish. Mexican, after advancing on the prospect of the beneficial results to be attained from the purchase by the United States of the Mesilla Valley, has relapsed in consequence of the reduction of the sum to be paid into the Mexican Treasury. Dutch and Brazilian have been supported at rather higher quotations.

Very few dealings have latterly taken place in the scrip of the French loan. Those reported have been at about 1 discount. The Turkish loan having been withdrawn, no further bargains are permitted, and all previous transactions will be cancelled.

An active business has been transacted in railway shares, and it is considered that quotations have been fairly maintained in the face of the adverse events with which we are surrounded. The traffic of the principal lines exhibits a progressive increase, and, if supported it will at least prevent any further serious depreciation. The dividends of the past half-year have been higher than was generally calculated.

The settlements at the Stock Exchange this month have passed over, on the whole, satisfactorily. The rates of accommodation have been less extravagant, and, although the fluctuations have proved incessant, differences in most cases have been well met. The railway account of the 30th of March caused two suspensions, the parties being Mr. Kitchen and Mr. Gray. In the former instance it is understood that the default of principals caused his failure, and that his assets show about 10s. in the pound for his creditors.

The general transactions in produce have not been important. Mercantile activity is impeded by the progress of hostilities, and most parties exhibit a tendency to restrict transactions. Saltpetre has given way in price through a pressure of sales, the late advance having been principally promoted by speculative purchases. Rice is also lower, the business in the corn market having depressed the quotation. Sugar and coffee exhibit little change, and the rates for tea are comparatively firm.

ENGLISH FUNDS.

	Price on Mar. 29.	Highest.	Lowest.	Price on April 28.
Consols	86 to 86½	89½	85½	87½
Exchequer Bills' average ..	2s. pm. to 2s. dis.	6 p.m.	2s. dis. 1 dis. to 2 pm.	

FOREIGN STOCKS.

Brazilian	—	96	90 ex. d.	96½
Buenos Ayres	48	55	48	55
Chilian	—	100	98 ex. d.	100
Dutch	51½	57½	51	56½
Mexican	22½	25	22½	23½
Peruvian, 4½ per cent. ..	52½	62	52	61
Portuguese, 4 per cent. ..	34	37½	34	36
Russian	84½	96	82	92
Spanish	34½	37	33	36

RAILWAY SHARES.

Brighton	94	99	93	98
Caledonian	50 ex d.	54	49½	53½
Eastern Counties	11½	12½	10½	12½
Great Northern	83½	87½	82½	86½
Great Western	71½	74½	70	72½
London and North Western	93½	97½	92	96
Midland	55½	60	54½	58½
Lancashire and Yorkshire ..	59	62	57½	60½

	Price on Mar. 29.	Highest.	Lowest.	Price on April 28.
North Staffordshire	10½	11	10½	10½
South Eastern	57½	60 ex d.	56 ex d.	59
South Western	73½	78½	72½	77
York, Newcastle and Berwick	61½	66	61	64½
York and North Midland ..	42½	46½	41½	45½
Northern of France	28	30½	27½	29½
East Indian	21½	22½	20½	22

THE STATE OF TRADE.

BUSINESS in the manufacturing districts continues dull, but no great depression is mentioned. The operations connected with woollen and cotton fabrics appear to have been principally affected by the existing impediment to trade, but there has been greater activity in the other districts. A large proportion of the Preston hands have returned to work, the masters having fairly exhausted their opposition; and the Stockport malcontents have also shown a readier disposition to resume employment.

THE CORN TRADE.

THE *Gazette* returns for England and Wales have been—

Week ended 1854.	Wheat. Qrs. sold.	Weekly Average. s. d.	Six Weeks' Average. s. d.	Duty. s. d.	Corresponding Six Weeks Last Year. s. d.
March 25.....	46,739 ..	78 4 ..	79 0 ..	1 0 ..	45 2
April 1.....	36,111 ..	75 0 ..	78 1 ..	1 0 ..	45 2
„ 8	35,628 ..	73 5 ..	77 3 ..	1 0 ..	45 1
„ 15	41,926 ..	78 3 ..	77 3 ..	1 0 ..	44 11

The importations since the harvest of 1853 have been:—

	Wheat. Qrs.	Other Grain. Qrs.	Total. Qrs.
Thirty-four weeks ended 15th March ..	3,774,174	2,302,610	6,076,784
Four weeks ended 12th April	466,267	314,636	780,903
	4,240,441	2,617,246	6,657,687

And the *weekly averages* have been—

Thirty weeks ended 15th March.....	111,000	68,000	179,000
Four weeks ended 12th April	116,000	79,000	195,000
More ..	5,000	11,000	16,000

The close of March brought a favourable reaction in the grain trade. Supplies of all descriptions having been short for two or three weeks, the purchases of the millers and others caused an advance from 4s. to 6s. per quarter. Subsequently, the arrivals of American became more extensive, and the promising appearance of the weather then created some heaviness, with a decline of about 1s. to 2s. on the average. The last week or ten days very little has been done, but at the latest moment prices exhibit a little more firmness. Rain, it is stated, is now much wanted to expedite agricultural operations and bring forward the crops, the prospects of which will hereafter influence prices. In the meantime many holders refuse to sell, on the presumption that a continuance of the war, with the quantity necessary for consumption between this and the next harvest, will yet cause a further advance. We have already experienced some few light showers, which it is expected will exercise considerable benefit in certain localities.

EAST INDIA REMITTANCES.

AMOUNT OF BILLS DRAWN FOR.

From the 24th of March to the 7th of April	{	Bengal.....	£153,713	7	2
		Madras	32,688	15	6
		Bombay	100	0	0
From the 8th of April to the 22nd of April	{	Bengal.....	83,938	6	2
		Madras	8,134	15	0
		Bombay	407	8	0
			£278,982	11	10

MONTHLY CHRONOLOGY.

March 28th.—Declaration of War against Russia declared, in a Supplement to the London Gazette.

March 31st.—Failure of Messrs. Leroy, Chabrol and Co., of Paris, announced.

April 1st.—Intelligence received of the passage of the Danube by the Russians.

April 3rd.—News of the taking of Hirsova by the Russians.

April 4th.—Diplomatic relations between the Ottomans and Greeks cease.

April 8th.—Withdrawal of the Turkish Loan.

April 10th.—An alliance, offensive and defensive, concluded between Austria and Prussia.

April 11th.—The failures of M. Ilja Stephanoff, cotton dealer, St. Petersburg, M. Jensen, broker, of Riga, and the three firms of S. Alexeyeff, T. Mathias and C. Kyber, of Moscow, announced.

April 17th.—First Russian Prizes taken by the English Cruizers.

April 17th.—All the Russian Baltic Ports declared under blockade.

April 17th.—Mr. C. Moate, metal broker, suspended payment.

April 17th.—Copies of treaty, offensive and defensive, between England and France, exchanged.

April 18th.—Lord Raglan left Paris for Marseilles.

April 21st.—Notification from the Treasury respecting the proposed issue of £6,000,000 Exchequer-bonds.

April 22nd.—Intelligence of an engagement near Rostelli, in which the Russians were defeated, with a loss of 3,000 men. The Turks lost 1,500.

April 25th.—Report of the bombardment of Odessa.

April 25th.—Another battle near Kalafat, in which the Russians were defeated, with the loss of 500 men.

April 26th.—Day of fast, humiliation, and prayer, for the success of the British arms, and the restoration of peace.

NOTICES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Although we have been enabled to dispose of some of our arrears through the publication of a double number, there are yet some communications standing over. Among our reports for which we have not found room, are those of the Agra and United Service Bank, and the judgment in the Vice-Chancellor's Court on the winding up of the Royal Bank of Australia.

All letters, except they involve important questions, should be sent at the latest by the 20th of the month.

A **SUBSCRIBER** is thanked for his suggestions, which shall receive attention. We have endeavoured to obtain the whole of the reports of the various banking companies, but there appears in some quarters an indisposition to furnish them. Those of our subscribers and readers who receive such documents would confer a great favour if they would forward them to the publishers—even duplicate or triplicate copies being preferable to an entire absence of information.

AN **ORIGINAL ALLOTTEE** will notice that the directors of the Chartered Bank of Asia promise to convene a meeting at no distant date.

THE ENGLISH FUNDS.—Daily Prices from 29th March, 1854, to 25th April, 1854, inclusive.

[illegible]

JOINT-STOCK BANKS.

	£40 sb.,	£40 0 pd.,	Latest Prices
Australasia	-	50 0	73
British North American	-	50 0	60
Commercial of London	-	100 0	32½
Colonial	-	100 0	18
London and Westminster	-	25 0	34½
London Joint Stock	-	50 10 0	24
Oriental Bank	-	25 0	45
Provincial of Ireland	-	100 0	47
Ditto, New	-	10 10 0	18½
National of Ireland	-	50 22 10	23
National Provincial of England	-	100 35 0	51
Ditto, New	-	10 0	20
South Australian	-	25 0	90
Union of Australia	-	25 0	68½
Union of London	-	50 10 0	23½
London and County	-	20 0	32
London Chartered of Australia	-	18 0	15
English, Scottish, and Australian Chartered	-	30 0	7½
Bank of India, China, and Australia	-	20 0	35
New South Wales	-	20 0	4

FOREIGN STOCKS (27th April.)

Brazilian Bonds, 5 per Cent.	96
Chilian Bonds, 6 per Cent.	96
Danish 5 per Cent.	100
Mexican 3 per Cent.	233
Peruvian 4 per Cent.	60
Portuguese Bonds, 4 per Cent.	34
Russian Bonds, 1892-5 per Cent. in 4/8 Ster.	92
Spain, 4 per cent.	70 1/2
Spanish Bonds 3 per Cent.	36
Ditto, Passive	3
Ditto, 3 per Cent. Deferred	17
(Dividends on the above payable in London.)	
Austrian 3 per Cent.	—
Belgian Bonds, 4 1/2 per Cent.	56 1/2
Dutch 2 1/2 per Cent.	83 1/2
Ditto 4 per Cent. Loan	—
French 4 1/2 per Cent., at Paris, Apr. 26	90 1/2
Ditto 3 per Cent., ditto	93 1/2

RAILWAY SHARES.

COMBENT.	Paid up	Prices April 12.	Prices April 12.
Calcedonian	100	51	19
Eastern Counties ..	20	13	13
Great Northern ..	100	85	56
Great Western ..	100	73	78
London and Brighton ..	13	7	8
London and Blackpool ..	100	94	98
London and North-West ..	100	94	96
Midland	100	74	70
North British	100	56	58
North-Eastern	100	20	30
South-Eastern	100	58	59
York, Newcastle, & Berwick ..	100	61	64
York & North Midland ..	1100	43	45

The closing prices of the day are quoted.

Bank of England Weekly Returns.

Account, pursuant to the Act 7th and 8th of Victoria, cap. 32, for the Weeks ending as follows.

ISSUE DEPARTMENT.

	1854. Mar. 25th.	1854. April 1st.	1854. April 8th.	1854. April 15th.
Notes issued.....	£ 27,874,310	£ 27,682,495	£ 27,379,605	£ 26,768,480
Government debt.....	11,015,100	11,015,100	11,015,100	11,015,100
Other securities.....	2,984,900	2,984,900	2,984,900	2,984,900
Gold coin and bullion.....	13,874,310	13,682,495	13,379,605	12,768,480
Silver bullion.....	—	—	—	—
	27,874,310	27,682,495	27,379,605	26,768,480

BANKING DEPARTMENT.

	1854. Mar. 25th.	1854. April 1st.	1854. April 8th.	1854. April 15th.
Proprietors' capital.....	£ 14,553,000	£ 14,553,000	£ 14,553,000	£ 14,553,000
Reserve.....	3,744,305	3,757,576	3,154,657	3,160,726
Public deposits (including Exchequer, Savings' Banks, Commissioners of National Debt, and Dividend Accounts).....	4,423,827	4,445,788	2,683,754	1,765,364
Other deposits.....	11,092,226	11,037,153	13,819,988	12,795,201
Seven day and other bills.....	1,124,969	1,102,303	1,177,753	1,196,079
	34,938,227	34,895,820	35,389,152	33,470,370
Government securities (including Dead Weight Annuity).....	11,792,116	11,607,616	13,939,132	13,686,596
Other securities.....	15,757,604	16,522,726	15,720,271	14,763,256
Notes.....	6,633,535	5,998,255	4,968,755	4,278,125
Gold and silver coin.....	754,972	767,223	760,994	742,393
	34,938,227	34,895,820	35,389,152	33,470,370

The Exchanges.

	Mar. 24th.	Mar. 31st.	April 7th.	April 14th.
Amsterdam, short ..	11 13½	11 13½	11 13½	11 13½
Ditto 3 months..	11 15½	11 15	11 15½	11 15½
Rotterdam, ditto ..	11 15½	11 15½	11 15½	11 15½
Antwerp, ditto ..	25 20	25 20	25 17½	25 15
Brussels, ditto.....	25 20	25 20	25 17½	25 15
Hamburg, ditto.....	13 5½	13 4½	13 4½	13 4½
Paris, short	25 0	25 0	25 0	24 9½
Paris, 3 months	25 35	25 35	25 35	25 32½
Marseilles, ditto	25 35	25 37½	25 35	25 32½
Frankfort, ditto	118½	118½	118½	118½
Vienna, ditto.....	13 50	14 40	14 4	13 55
Trieste, ditto.....	14 0	14 45	14 10	14 5
Petersburgh, ditto ..	29	31	34	34
Madrid, ditto	50½	50	50	50½
Cadix, ditto	50½	50½	50½	50½
Leghorn, ditto	30 70	30 70	30 60	30 65
Genoa, ditto	25 65	25 57½	25 55	25 60
Naples, ditto.....	42½	41½	41½	41½
Palermo, ditto	126½	126	125	124½
Messina, ditto	126½	126	125½	124½
Lisbon, 60 days' date	53½	53½	53	53
Oporto, ditto	53½	53½	53½	53½
Rio Janeiro, ditto ..	—	—	27½	—

PRICES OF BULLION.

	Per Ounce.	Per Ounce.	Per Ounce.	Per Ounce.
Foreign Gold in Bars, (Standard).....	£ 3 17 9	£ 3 17 9	£ 3 17 9	£ 3 17 9
Mexican Dollars	0 5 0½	0 5 0½	0 5 0½	0 5 0½
Silver in Bars (Stand.)	0 5 1½	0 5 1½	0 5 1½	0 5 1½

Bankers' Weekly Circulation Returns.

Pursuant to the Act 7 & 8 Victoria, c. 32; extracted from the LONDON GAZETTES.

PRIVATE BANKS.

NAME OF BANK.	Authorized Issue.	AVERAGE AMOUNT.			
		Feb. 26.	Mar. 4.	Mar. 11.	Mar. 18.
		£	£	£	£
1 Andover Bank	17,751	12,878	11,203	11,949	12,370
2 Ashford Bank	11,849	10,608	10,479	11,720	10,871
3 Aylsham Bank	5,854	4,526	4,516	4,561	4,609
4 Aylesbury Old Bank	48,461	30,072	30,522	30,447	31,850
5 Baldock and Biggleswade Bank ...	37,223	28,046	28,011	27,245	26,601
6 Barnstaple Bank	17,182	10,354	10,419	10,490	11,452
7 Basingstoke and Odiham Bank ...	24,730	18,679	18,351	18,711	18,250
8 Bedford Bank	34,218	32,691	32,468	32,573	32,433
9 Bewdley Bank	18,597	12,439	11,766	11,993	12,022
10 Bicester and Oxfordshire Bank ...	27,090	15,310	15,223	15,355	15,292
11 Birmingham Bank—Attwoods & Co.	23,695	23,380	23,418	23,398	23,775
12 Birmingham and Warwickshire Bk.	18,132	10,400	10,165	10,073	10,003
13 Blandford Bank	9,723	8,196	7,882	8,105	7,975
14 Boston Bank—Garfit and Co.	75,069	62,477	63,302	65,008	65,726
15 Boston Bank—Gee and Co.	15,161	14,627	14,557	14,652	15,967
16 Bridgewater Bank	10,028	6,293	6,686	7,033	7,586
17 Bristol Bank	48,277	37,984	40,004	39,979	38,698
18 Broseley and Bridgenorth Bank ...	26,717	17,602	17,164	16,910	15,947
19 Buckingham Bank	29,557	20,942	20,618	21,137	20,373
20 Bury and Suffolk Bank	82,362	67,763	67,490	66,940	66,785
21 Banbury Bank	43,457	34,803	35,316	34,484	34,622
22 Banbury Old Bank	55,153	24,755	24,372	25,250	25,585
23 Bath City Bank	4,572	3,168	3,219	3,245	3,276
24 Bedfordshire Leighton Buzzard Bk.	36,829	35,604	36,410	34,820	35,604
25 Birmingham Bk.—Taylor & Lloyds	38,816	35,897	33,905	33,067	32,316
26 Bradford Old Bank	12,676	11,421	11,422	11,561	11,551
27 Brecon Old Bank	68,271	61,867	63,449	67,357	66,180
28 Brighton Union Bank	33,794	25,605	25,901	26,747	25,260
29 Burlington and Driffield Bank	12,745	12,488	12,212	12,022	11,949
30 Bury St. Edmund's Bank	3,201	2,216	2,060	1,920	1,713
31 Cambridge Bk.—Mortlock & Co.	25,744	17,145	16,615	16,379	16,169
32 Cambridge and Cambridgeshire Bk.	49,916	44,436	43,162	42,954	42,974
33 Canterbury Bank	33,671	30,800	31,241	31,583	32,590
34 Carmarthen Bank	23,597	21,542	21,651	21,578	21,605
35 Chertsey Bank	3,436	2,630	3,075	3,277	3,042
36 Colchester Bank	25,082	15,756	15,745	15,925	16,058
37 Colchester and Essex Bank	48,704	29,729	29,644	29,304	28,468
38 Cornish Bank—Tweedy & Co.	49,869	47,710	48,525	49,260	49,000
39 Coventry Bank	12,045	6,055	5,933	5,827	5,846
40 City Bank, Exeter	21,527	21,494	21,337	21,437	21,492
41 Craven Bank—Alcocks & Co.	77,154	71,635	72,840	72,183	73,029
42 Cardiff Bank	7,001	6,243	6,347	6,766	6,582
43 Chepstow Old Bank	9,387	8,732	8,829	8,911	8,626
44 Derby Bank—Messrs. Evans	13,332	13,024	12,677	12,533	12,941
45 Derby Bank—Smith and Co.	41,304	39,059	40,178	41,308	43,936
46 Derby Old Bank	27,237	26,022	27,416	27,353	26,877
47 Devises and Wiltshire Bank	20,674	9,507	9,490	9,150	8,590
48 Diss Bank	10,657	10,396	10,145	10,548	10,504
49 Doncaster Bank and Retford Bank	77,400	75,248	74,469	73,447	72,678
50 Darlington Bank ..	86,218	85,820	84,160	86,559	86,634

WEEKLY RETURNS OF BANKS OF ISSUE.

NAME OF BANK.	Authorised Issue.	AVERAGE AMOUNT.			
		Feb. 25.	Mar. 4.	Mar. 11.	Mar. 18.
	£	£	£	£	£
51 Devonport Bank	10,664	10,694	10,249	10,439	10,691
52 Dorchester Old Bank	48,807	48,427	47,945	46,913	46,329
53 East Cornwall Bk.—Robins & Co.	112,280	102,289	104,453	105,263	105,843
54 East Riding Bank—Bower & Co.	53,392	51,988	52,116	52,379	50,997
55 Essex Bk. & Bishops Stortford Bk.	69,637	43,719	42,825	42,857	41,488
56 Exeter Bank	37,894	27,460	27,348	27,010	26,793
57 Fakenham Bank	24,293	21,520	21,645	21,315	21,013
58 Faringdon Bk. & Bk. of Wantage	8,977	6,792	6,561	6,520	6,417
59 Farnham Bank	14,202	12,529	12,217	11,823	11,911
60 Faversham Bank	6,681	6,170	6,055	6,263	6,225
61 Godalming Bank	6,322	6,315	5,950	6,095	5,704
62 Guildford Bank	14,524	6,089	5,816	6,094	5,713
63 Grantham Bank—Hardy and Co.	30,372	25,573	25,508	25,338	24,173
64 Hastings Old Bank	38,038	33,399	32,960	32,588	32,598
65 Hereford City and County Bank..	22,364	17,619	16,880	17,672	17,592
66 Hertford and Ware Bank	23,635	21,250	21,560	21,654	20,655
67 Hull & Kingston-upon-Hull Bank	19,979	20,186	20,310	20,345	19,062
68 Huntingdon Town & County Bank	56,591	46,462	45,472	43,767	43,011
69 Harwich Bank	5,778	5,603	5,494	5,620	5,216
70 Hemel Hempstead Bank	23,842	23,754	23,050	23,328	23,855
71 Hertfordshire, Hitchin Bank	38,764	35,532	35,969	35,473	36,105
72 Hereford, Ross, & Archenfield Bk.	27,625	23,703	23,273	23,175	23,502
73 Ipswich Bank	21,901	20,615	20,172	20,051	18,706
74 Ipswich & Needham Market Bank	80,699	60,957	59,411	58,904	58,555
75 Kentish Bank—Mercer & Co.	19,895	13,644	14,455	14,571	14,008
76 Kingston and Radnorshire Bank...	26,050	26,031	26,038	26,040	26,030
77 Knighton Bank	9,090	8,695	8,543	9,231	9,830
78 Knaresborough Old Bank	21,825	20,552	20,535	20,980	21,072
79 Kendal Bank	44,663	46,541	44,776	43,756	42,776
80 Kettering Bank	9,192	8,302	8,580	8,430	8,224
81 Lane End Staffordshire Bank ...	5,624	5,345	5,300	5,397	5,264
82 Leeds Bank	53,357	53,080	53,078	53,360	53,507
83 Leeds Union Bank	37,459	37,010	37,207	37,118	37,270
84 Leicester Bank	32,322	28,605	29,221	28,489	29,049
85 Lewes Old Bank	44,836	31,743	30,987	30,235	30,250
86 Lichfield Bank	22,786	11,649	11,557	11,502	11,075
87 Lincoln Bank	100,342	85,985	85,789	86,317	86,762
88 Llandovery Bank & Llandilo Bank	32,945	14,608	13,938	13,482	14,574
89 Loughborough Bank	7,359	6,487	6,928	7,189	7,240
90 Lymington Bank	5,038	4,152	4,344	4,322	4,118
91 Lynn Regis and Lincolnshire Bank	42,817	35,918	35,633	34,640	33,636
92 Lynn Regis and Norfolk Bank ...	13,917	9,842	10,769	10,627	10,657
93 Macclesfield Bank	15,760	16,516	16,557	16,185	13,645
94 Manningtree Bank	7,692	2,749	2,989	2,805	2,713
95 Merionethshire Bank	10,906	7,224	7,046	7,186	7,276
96 Miners' Bank	18,688	17,084	16,873	17,253	17,668
97 Monmouthshire Agricultural and Commercial Bank	29,335	28,771	28,349	28,953	28,580
98 Monmouth Old Bank	16,385	14,537	15,255	15,047	15,310
99 Newark Bank	28,788	25,713	25,096	26,362	26,907
100 Newark and Sleaford Bank	51,615	47,391	48,431	48,436	48,095
101 Newbury Bank	36,787	19,570	19,349	18,948	18,665
102 Newmarket Bank	23,098	16,955	17,400	17,081	16,857
103 Norwich Crown Bank and Norfolk and Suffolk Bank	49,671	47,719	47,355	46,830	46,860
104 Norwich and Norfolk Bank	75,372	67,710	68,591	69,087	68,815
105 Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Bank	10,866	9,027	9,168	9,568	9,679

WEEKLY RETURNS OF BANKS OF ISSUE.

NAME OF BANK.	Authorised Issue.	AVERAGE AMOUNT.			
		Feb. 28.	Mar. 4.	Mar. 11.	Mar. 18.
	£	£	£	£	£
106 Nunenton Bank	5,898	3,472	3,511	3,259	3,260
107 Naval Bank, Plymouth	27,321	23,912	24,740	24,515	23,577
108 New Sarum Bk.—Everett & Smith	15,659	11,960	12,307	12,045	11,656
109 Nottingham Bank	31,047	32,032	31,946	30,996	28,232
110 Oswestry Bank	18,471	10,880	11,462	11,319	11,448
111 Oxford Old Bank	34,391	31,339	30,970	31,865	31,797
112 Old Bank, Tonbridge	13,183	9,602	9,347	9,116	8,866
113 Oxfordshire Witney Bank	11,852	10,707	10,325	10,100	9,599
114 Pease's Old Bank, Hull	48,807	46,765	47,597	47,838	47,795
115 Penzance Bank	11,405	10,530	10,703	10,580	10,183
116 Peterborough Bank—Yorke & Co.	12,545	8,796	9,244	8,751	8,774
117 Pembrokeshire Bank	12,910	12,295	11,440	10,943	10,721
118 Reading Bank—Simmonds & Co.	37,519	27,399	27,921	27,856	27,470
119 Reading Bk.—Stephens & Blandy	43,271	29,187	29,832	29,358	29,143
120 Richmond Bank, Richmond	6,889	6,421	6,658	6,689	6,172
121 Rochdale Bank	5,590	5,250	5,005	4,825	4,540
122 Rochester, Chatham, & Strood Bk.	10,480	8,724	8,775	7,863	7,646
123 Royston Bank	16,393	14,044	13,630	13,589	13,373
124 Rugby Bank	17,250	11,910	12,007	12,315	12,188
125 Rye Bank	29,864	14,318	13,943	13,123	13,291
126 Ross Old Bank, Herefordshire ...	4,420	4,070	3,873	4,687	4,220
127 Saffron Walden & North Essex Bk.	47,646	31,087	30,092	29,086	27,776
128 Salop Bank	22,338	15,526	15,142	15,805	15,463
129 Scarborough Old Bank	24,813	24,097	24,423	23,844	23,724
130 Shrewsbury Old Bank	43,191	42,214	42,362	45,324	42,570
131 Sittingbourne and Milton Bank ...	4,789	2,578	2,467	2,398	2,191
132 Southampton Town & County Bk.	18,589	14,134	13,110	13,438	13,099
133 Southwell Bank	17,744	11,254	11,046	11,079	10,972
134 Southampton and Hampshire Bk.	6,770	3,690	3,630	3,380	3,254
135 Stone Bank	9,154	385	385	385	385
136 Stafford Old Bank	14,166	12,307	12,186	11,244	11,025
137 Stamford and Rutland Bank	31,858	27,504	27,158	27,672	27,648
138 Shrewsbury and Welsh Pool Bank	25,336	22,730	22,279	23,560	27,313
139 Taunton Bank	29,799	26,486	26,283	26,677	26,574
140 Tavistock Bank	13,421	11,388	11,585	12,070	12,290
141 Thornbury Bank	10,026	6,275	6,514	6,715	6,375
142 Tiverton and Devonshire Bank ...	13,470	9,342	9,625	9,745	10,033
143 Thrapstone and Kettering Bank	11,559	11,400	11,407	11,164	11,097
144 Tring Bank and Chesham Bank	13,531	12,738	12,920	13,040	13,090
145 Worcester Old Bank	10,801	8,519	8,540	8,237	7,996
146 Town and County of Poole Bk. and Ringwood and Poole Bk.	11,856	9,982	9,852	10,046	9,852
147 Union Bank, Cornwall	17,003	12,467	13,224	13,031	11,103
148 Uxbridge Old Bank	25,136	14,500	15,197	14,890	14,260
149 Wallingford Bank	17,064	8,649	8,430	8,342	8,285
150 Warwick and Warwickshire Bank	30,504	23,755	23,834	22,982	22,574
151 Wellington Bank, Somerset	6,528	4,197	4,398	4,263	4,477
152 West Riding Bank	46,158	43,436	45,097	45,842	45,476
153 Whitley Old Bank	14,258	14,564	13,852	14,145	14,074
154 Winchester, Alresford & Alton Bk.	25,892	20,260	20,152	21,054	20,843
155 Winchester and Hampshire Bank	6,737	4,498	5,254	4,870	4,266
156 Weymouth Old Bank	16,461	14,496	14,621	14,792	14,275
157 Wirksworth and Derbyshire Bk.	37,602	35,356	37,611	37,451	37,742
158 Wisbeach and Lincolnshire Bank	59,713	46,372	45,860	44,901	45,255
159 Wiveliscombe Bank	7,602	7,411	7,771	7,743	7,203
160 Wolverhampton Bk.—Goodricke and Co.	14,180	11,605	13,002	12,908	13,374
161 Worcester Bank	15,463	8,036	7,529	7,478	7,455

WEEKLY RETURNS OF BANKS OF ISSUE.

NAME OF BANK.	Authorised Issue.	AVERAGE AMOUNT.			
		Feb. 23.	Mar. 4.	Mar. 11.	Mar. 18.
	£	£	£	£	£
162 Worcester Old Bank	87,448	65,642	65,086	64,410	65,758
163 Worcestershire Bank	14,309	9,292	8,955	8,846	8,579
164 Wolverhampton Bank—R. & W. Fryer	11,867	10,890	11,090	11,656	10,351
165 Yarmouth and Suffolk Bank	53,060	43,309	42,741	41,602	41,005
166 Yarmouth, Norfolk, & Suffolk Bk.	13,229	12,345	12,260	12,075	11,677
167 York Bank	46,387	44,582	44,880	44,594	44,194

JOINT STOCK BANKS.

1 Bank of Westmoreland.....	12,225	11,512	10,743	9,950	9,572
2 Barnsley Banking Company	9,563	9,196	9,103	9,560	9,285
3 Bradford Banking Company	49,292	49,831	49,317	49,324	47,731
4 Bilston District Banking Company	9,418	8,721	7,370	8,490	9,309
5 Bank of Whitehaven	32,681	30,575	30,674	30,398	30,544
6 Bradford Commercial Banking Co.	20,084	20,606	20,025	19,174	19,586
7 Burton, Uttoxeter, and Staffordshire Union Bank	60,701	56,558	55,230	56,066	58,716
8 Chesterfield & N. Derbysh. Bk. Co.	10,421	9,798	10,436	10,301	10,372
9 Cumberland Union Banking Co....	35,395	35,034	34,645	34,376	34,255
10 Cheltenham & Glo'stershire Bk. Co.	12,796	10,200	9,855	9,885	10,120
11 Coventry and Warwickshire Bk. Co.	28,734	23,333	22,568	22,797	22,322
12 Coventry Union Banking Company	16,251	15,018	15,578	17,300	15,468
13 County of Gloucester Banking Co.	144,352	112,705	109,843	109,248	108,562
14 Carlisle & Cumberland Banking Co.	25,610	25,509	25,910	26,139	24,670
15 Carlisle City and District Bank ...	19,972	19,516	20,062	19,877	19,487
16 Dudley & West Bromwich Bk. Co.	37,696	35,093	36,188	37,240	38,662
17 Derby and Derbyshire Banking Co.	40,093	19,886	20,297	19,654	19,179
18 Darlington Dist. Joint Stock Bk. Co.	26,134	21,159	19,815	20,822	19,911
19 East of England Bank	25,025	24,245	25,270	24,385	23,675
20 Gloucestershire Banking Company	155,920	147,542	149,269	148,215	148,207
21 Halifax Joint Stock Bank	18,534	17,787	18,426	18,452	18,812
22 Huddersfield Banking Company...	37,354	38,332	34,690	31,936	38,015
23 Hull Banking Company	29,333	26,923	27,937	28,093	28,855
24 Halifax Commercial Banking Co....	13,733	13,005	13,531	13,531	13,433
25 Halifax & Huddersfield Union Bk.	44,137	44,049	43,555	42,603	43,593
26 Helston Banking Company	1,503	1,490	1,512	1,497	1,405
27 Herefordshire Banking Company...	25,047	18,667	18,105	17,819	18,147
28 Knaresborough and Claro Bk. Co.	28,059	28,078	27,785	37,403	27,622
29 Kingsbridge Joint Stock Bank	3,952	4,282	3,990	3,689	3,688
30 Lancaster Banking Company	64,311	62,240	59,455	59,833	58,996
31 Leeds Banking Company	23,076	26,436	20,962	25,715	18,915
32 Leicestershire Banking Company...	86,060	72,133	72,040	73,897	73,818
33 Lincoln and Lindsey Banking Co..	51,620	48,050	49,110	50,476	51,040
34 Leamington Priors and Warwick- shire Bank	13,875	12,076	12,535	13,282	11,960
35 Ludlow and Tenbury Bank	10,215	9,963	9,755	10,064	9,782

WEEKLY RETURNS OF BANKS OF ISSUE.

NAME OF BANK.	Authorized Issue.	AVERAGE AMOUNT.			
		Feb. 25.	Mar. 4.	Mar. 11.	Mar. 18.
	£	£	£	£	£
36 Moore & Robinson's Notts. Bank...	35,813	37,456	36,263	30,502	32,519
37 Nottingham and Notts. Banking Co.	29,477	28,292	27,785	27,857	28,055
38 National Provincial Bk. of England	442,371	409,520	412,794	421,468	425,479
39 North Wilts Banking Company ...	63,939	44,425	43,898	45,318	47,220
40 Northamptonshire Union Bank ...	84,356	68,852	70,656	72,146	73,611
41 Northamptonshire Banking Co. ...	26,401	22,448	22,607	23,267	23,062
42 North and South Wales Bank	63,951	37,180	37,454	38,285	39,931
43 Parc's Leicestershire Banking Co...	59,300	51,492	51,355	52,877	51,965
44 Saddleworth Banking Company ...	8,122	2,190	2,016	2,061	2,041
45 Sheffield Banking Company	35,843	38,420	35,337	31,625	34,635
46 Stamford, Spalding & Boston Bk. Co.	55,721	47,479	49,360	50,209	50,970
47 Stuckey's Banking Company	356,976	347,881	356,730	358,800	354,657
48 Shropshire Banking Company	47,951	46,170	46,795	47,618	46,681
49 Stourbridge and Kidderminster Bk.	56,830	56,315	56,907	56,180	56,531
50 Sheffield and Hallamshire Bank ...	23,524	21,925	22,280	23,520	22,844
51 Sheffield & Rotherham Jt. Stock Bk.	52,496	52,337	51,921	52,667	51,705
52 Swaledale and Wensleydale Bank..	54,372	48,800	48,773	50,246	50,241
53 Storey & Thomas's Bank	9,714	9,548	9,739	9,805	9,717
54 Wolverhampton & Staffordsh. Bk..	35,378	34,400	37,495	34,643	32,673
55 Wakefield and Barnsley Union Bk.	14,604	12,692	12,658	13,087	13,238
56 Whitehaven Joint Stock Bank ...	31,916	29,396	28,073	27,862	28,490
57 Warwick and Leamington Bk. Co.	37,124	31,071	31,439	31,825	31,000
58 West of England and South Wales District Bank	83,535	78,988	80,573	83,972	84,345
59 Wilts & Dorset Banking Company	76,162	71,449	73,630	74,096	74,674
60 West Riding Union Banking Co....	34,029	33,096	32,750	32,730	34,017
61 Whitechurch and Ellesmere Bk. Co.	7,475	4,630	5,033	5,150	5,085
62 Worcester City and County Bk. Co.	6,848	5,310	1,112	4,960	5,235
63 York Union Banking Company ...	71,240	69,319	70,362	68,845	68,096
64 York City and County Banking Co.	94,695	89,011	89,982	90,230	91,477
65 Yorkshire Banking Company	122,532	115,502	123,440	125,221	125,283

Summary of the above Returns.

	Fixed Issues.	Feb. 25.	Mar. 4.	Mar. 11.	Mar. 18.
	£	£	£	£	£
167 Private Banks	4,616,609	3,817,855	3,817,451	3,819,763	3,791,697
65 Joint Stock Banks ..	3,055,082	3,055,082	3,068,703	3,088,563	3,093,191
232 Totals	7,942,466	6,872,897	6,886,154	6,908,326	6,884,888

Average Weekly Circulation of these Banks for the month ending March 18th:—

Private Banks	£3,811,681
Joint Stock Banks	3,076,385

Average Weekly Circulation of Private and Joint Stock Banks ending as above £6,888,066

On a comparison of the above with the Returns for the Month ending 18th February last, it shows—

A decrease in the Notes of Private Banks, of	£84,269
An increase in the Notes of Joint Stock Banks, of	17,926

Total decrease on the Month £66,343

CIRCULATION RETURNS.

And as compared with the Month ending 19th March, 1853, it shows—

An increase in the Notes of Private Banks, of..... £139,896
 An increase in the Notes of Joint Stock Banks, of 82,774

Total increase, as compared with the same period of last year .. £222,670

The following appears to be the comparative state of the circulation, as regards the fixed issues—

The Private Banks are *below* their fixed issues £804,928
 The Joint Stock Banks are *below* their fixed issues 249,472

Total *BELOW* the fixed issues £1,054,400

Irish and Scotch Circulation Returns.

Average Circulation, and Coin held by the IRISH and SCOTCH BANKS during the four weeks ending Saturday, the 18th day of March, 1854.

IRISH BANKS.

NAME OF BANK.	Authorised Circulation.	Average Circulation during Four Weeks, ending as above.			Average Amount of Gold & Silver Coin held during Four Weeks ending as above.
		£5 and upwards.	Under £5.	Total.	
	£	£	£	£	£
Bank of Ireland.....	3,738,428	1,869,650	1,347,775	3,217,425	787,232
Provincial Bank of Ireland	927,667	355,824	666,302	1,022,126	288,150
Belfast Bank	281,611	54,890	454,918	509,808	289,871
Northern Bank	243,440	36,586	257,467	294,053	81,103
Ulster Bank	311,079	48,693	472,322	521,015	240,512
National Bank of Ireland...	761,757	413,017	647,204	1,060,221	452,297
Carrick-on-Suir Nat. Bank	24,084	11,195	15,297	26,492	4,471
Clonmel National Bank ...	66,428	28,301	31,337	59,638	12,106
TOTALS (Irish Banks) ...	6,354,494	2,818,156	3,892,622	6,710,778	2,155,742

SCOTCH BANKS.

Bank of Scotland	300,485	122,939	250,108	373,047	144,694
Royal Bank of Scotland ...	183,000	75,292	118,744	194,036	60,366
British Linen Company	438,024	177,390	302,699	480,089	159,988
Commercial Bk. of Scotland	374,880	164,295	321,988	486,284	178,557
National Bank of Scotland..	297,024	103,438	217,179	320,618	72,652
Union Bank of Scotland and Banking Com. in Aberdeen	415,690	198,470	311,579	510,049	176,611
Edinburgh & Glasgow Bk...	136,657	61,290	90,856	152,146	47,434
Aberdeen Town and Co. Bk.	70,133	33,536	64,559	98,095	36,097
North of Scotland Bk. Co...	154,319	82,533	103,790	186,324	53,750
Dundee Banking Company	33,451	12,762	22,451	35,213	7,054
Eastern Bank of Scotland...	33,636	17,551	23,655	41,206	13,564
Western Bank of Scotland..	337,938	127,956	359,320	487,276	272,114
Clydesdale Banking Co. ...	104,028	37,472	98,743	136,216	58,283
City of Glasgow Bank	72,921	82,132	56,884	179,016	121,176
Caledonian Banking Co. ...	53,434	21,157	46,299	67,457	25,300
Perth Banking Company ...	38,656	12,585	29,791	42,376	16,123
Central Bank of Scotland...	42,933	19,756	35,159	54,915	20,759
TOTALS (Scotch Banks)...	3,087,209	1,350,554	2,493,804	3,844,363	1,464,522

CIRCULATION RETURNS.

SUMMARY OF IRISH & SCOTCH RETURNS TO MARCH 18, 1854.

The Returns of Circulation of the Irish and Scotch Banks for the four weeks ending 18th March, when added together, give the following as the average weekly circulation of these banks during the past month, viz. :—

Average Circulation of the Irish Banks .. £6,710,778
Average Circulation of the Scotch Banks 3,844,563

Total Average Circulation of these Banks for the past month £10,555,141

On comparing these amounts with the Returns for the month ending 18th February last, they show—

Decrease in the Circulation of Irish Banks £ 83,928
Decrease in the Circulation of Scotch Banks 129,746

Total decrease on the month £213,674

And as compared with the month ending March 19th, 1853, they show—

Increase in the Circulation of Irish Banks £1,190,234
Increase in the Circulation of Scotch Banks 400,469

Total increase on the year 1,590,703

The fixed issues of the Irish and Scotch Banks at the present time are given in the *Banking Almanac*, as follows :—

8 Banks in Ireland, allowed to issue... £6,354,494
18 Banks in Scotland, allowed to issue .. 3,087,209

26 Banks in all, allowed to issue..... £9,441,703

The following appears, therefore, to be the comparative state of the circulation :—

Irish Banks are above their fixed issue .. £356,284
Scotch Banks are above their fixed issue 757,154

Total above the fixed issue £1,113,438

The amounts of Gold and Silver held at the head offices of the several banks, during the past month, have been as follows :—

Gold and Silver held by the Irish Banks £2,155,742
Gold and Silver held by the Scotch Banks 1,464,522

Total of Gold and Silver Coin £3,620,264

Being an increase of £56,465 on the part of the Irish Banks, and an increase of £8,937 on the part of the Scotch Banks, on the several amounts held by them during the preceding month.

CIRCULATION OF THE UNITED KINGDOM TO MARCH 18, 1854.

The following is the state of the Note Circulation of the United Kingdom, for the month ending the 18th March, 1854.

Circulation of Notes for the Month ending March 18th, as compared with the previous month :

	Feb. 18.	Mar. 18.	Increase.	Decrease.
Bank of England	£22,167,917	£21,263,930	—	£903,287
Private Banks	3,895,950	3,811,681	—	84,269
Joint Stock Banks	3,058,459	3,076,385	£17,926	—
Total in England	29,121,626	28,151,996	17,926	987,556
Scotland	3,974,169	3,844,363	—	129,746
Ireland	6,794,706	6,710,778	—	83,928
United Kingdom	39,890,441	38,707,137	17,926	1,201,230

The comparison of the month ending March 19th, 1853, with the month ending March 18th, 1854, shows a decrease in the Bank of England circulation of £597,052, an increase in Private Banks of £139,896, and an increase in Joint Stock Banks of £82,774; being a total decrease in England of £374,382; while in Scotland there is an increase of £400,469; and in Ireland an increase of £1,190,234. Thus showing that the month ending 18th March, as compared with the same period last year, presents a decrease of £374,382 in England, and an increase of £1,216,321 in the United Kingdom.

The return of Ballion in the Bank of England, for the month ending March 18th, gives an aggregate amount in both departments of £15,603,648. On a comparison of this with the Return for the month ending February 18th, there appears to be a decrease of £623,036; and a decrease of £3,202,995 as compared with the same period last year.

The stock of specie held by the Banks in Scotland and Ireland during the month ending 18th March, was £3,620,264; being an increase of £65,402 as compared with the return of the previous month, and an increase of £923,844 as compared with the corresponding period last year.

SUPPLEMENT TO

THE BANKERS' MAGAZINE,

AND

Journal of the Money Market.

—

MAY, 1854.

—

MR. CARDWELL'S NEW RAILWAY BILL.

THERE can be no dispute that nothing would be more beneficial for the interests of railway companies than that some general law should be passed, under which the various companies might enter into equitable arrangements for mutual exchange of traffic without further amalgamations and continual applications to Parliament; nor to the public, than that every facility should be afforded for the conveyance from one part of the kingdom to another, however distant, of both passengers and goods, with as little delay as circumstances will permit.

Mr. Cardwell's bill presented to the House of Commons on the 6th of April, and which has already passed the second reading, will in some measure accomplish these objects, and therefore be of essential service to the public and the railway world; but it possesses two radical faults, which at first mention may appear somewhat of a contradiction—it goes too far, and it does not go far enough, it will not settle the disputes between the two gauges, it does not lay down any general principles with regard to future legislation, and it gives to the Board of Trade a power which it ought not to possess, and for the proper discharge of the duties of which it is by no means competent.

In opposing further amalgamation of the companies, we consider Government and the legislature are right, as such arrangements in too many instances create a monopoly against the public which is highly to be deprecated; but "facility" arrangements are imperatively called for to compel the various

companies to carry the traffic as they should do, by the nearest and not, as is too often the case, by a circuitous route for the purpose of serving their own pecuniary interests, or injuring the property of a rival company.

In the first place, the bill provides that it shall be lawful for two or more companies, with the consent of the shareholders, subject however to the approval of the Board of Trade, to enter into agreements for the joint working of the whole or any portion of their lines, in such manner as shall not prejudice the rights of other companies or of individuals to the use of the respective lines. To this portion of the bill the most unqualified approval can be given, presuming that, as the Board of Trade are to have a control over the arrangements, that the opinions of a minority of the shareholders will be duly considered, so that a bare majority which, in nineteen cases out of twenty, can easily be obtained by directorial influence, and the aid of *employés*, will not be allowed to ride rough-shod over the wishes of the other proprietors. After providing that the lines so agreed to be worked in unison may be placed under the management of a joint committee from the respective boards, the bill goes on to enact that whenever any difference shall arise between two or more railway or canal companies (for in every respect it is made as applicable to the one as to the other), it shall be lawful for them to refer the matter in dispute to the arbitration of the Board of Trade; and any decision made thereon by that department, is to be binding on all parties, and may be made a rule of one of the superior courts of law, on the application of either party; and, moreover, if one party wish for such reference, whilst it is declined by the other, any superior court of law or of equity may, upon action or suit between the companies, order such reference to be made.

Now, to this part of the bill, it is necessary to enter, on behalf of all those interested in railway property, the strongest and most emphatic protest. What is there in the constitution of the Board of Trade that should render it a fit arbitrator in the various complicated disputes, sometimes involving the nicest legal and equitable points, constantly arising between these companies? What is there in such a board to entitle it to take the place of the Court of Chancery, or of the Court of Queen's Bench, and to demand for its decisions all the force—nay, more than the force—of those of Superior Courts at Westminster; for it does not appear that, however harsh and unjust the decision may be considered to be, by the party against whom it is given, there is any appeal from such an award once made? Indeed, there can be no hesitation in saying, that not only is such a power objectionable in

principle, but that it is contrary to the practice and spirit of the constitution of England, for any body of men, however competent they may be for the office, to have placed in their hands the welfare and interests of such large commercial undertakings as the railway companies of the United Kingdom, without their decisions being subjected to a control, or appeal to some superior and well-recognised tribunal. Nor are the powers of the Board of Trade to end here, for it seems that, in the following clauses providing for "facilities" being given to the receiving and forwarding to their destination all goods or passengers brought from one line to another with the least possible delay ("facilities" greatly to be desired), that the Board of Trade are to have the power of regulating the tolls, rates and charges to be paid by the one company to the other for such forwarding of the traffic. Surely nothing more startling than this was ever suggested; and it cannot be believed that the Legislature will consent to such an unwarrantable interference with the rights of private property as to give to any department of the Government the power of interfering with the financial arrangements of any one or more commercial bodies. Such a principle once recognised, would be destructive not only to the independence of the companies interfered with, but subversive of the confidence of all commercial men in the security of every joint-stock undertaking; since the wedge of interference once introduced by the Board of Trade into the internal arrangements of the railway companies, there is no saying how far it might be driven, and how soon attempts might not also be made to bring joint-stock banks and other commercial undertakings under the direction of Government. It is certain that the management of the national property by departmental boards, has not hitherto been so successful as to enamour the public with it; and make them wish to have it extended to railway or other commercial enterprise, which properly and legitimately belong to those whose capital and energy have created the property.

For the good there is in Mr. Cardwell's bill he deserves great thanks, but it must be hoped that when the measure comes under discussion in the House of Commons, it will be so amended that the good shall not be counterbalanced by an amount of evil which, it is believed, would be all but destructive to railway property.

Let the "arrangement" and the "facility" clauses be passed by all means, but at the same time, let all points of dispute between the companies be referred to other arbitrators than the Board of Trade. There can be no objection to the Board exercising so much authority as to direct such an arbitrament when deemed necessary, but it must not itself be the arbitrator. It

is suggested that the tribunal to whom such arbitration should be left, might consist of five members, two of whom should be permanent officers appointed by the Government, whilst the other three should be nominated on each case as it arose. The two permanent members of this Board of Arbitration should consist of an engineer, practically acquainted with railway matters, and of a barrister of experience in railway law, each of whom should be paid such a salary as to induce him to withdraw from all private professional practice, and to denude himself, should he be possessed of any, of all interest, either direct or indirect, in railway or canal property. The other members of the tribunal might be appointed one by each of the litigating parties, and the third by mutual arrangement between the other four arbitrators, it being a *sine quâ non*, that neither of the parties taking upon himself such office should have any connection, either as a shareholder or official, with either of the contending companies.

To such a tribunal all disputes might be fairly left, and the parties bound by its decision in all cases where that decision was unanimously arrived at; or when the dissenting party was only that gentleman sent to represent the interests of a given company. Should there, however, be more than one dissident amongst the arbitrators, an appeal might be allowed to a judge of a superior court sitting in chambers, who, upon receiving a report of the reasons for the award, and also the grounds of dissent drawn up by the arbitrators themselves, should have the power of confirming or remitting the award back to the arbitrators for further consideration, and if they again failed of coming to a more unanimous decision, of himself making an award which should be final and binding upon all parties.

The expenses of appearing before this tribunal would of course fall upon the contending parties, as at present, in suits of law; but the salaries of the permanent and the allowances of the special arbitrators, and the necessary expenses of clerks and officers, should be defrayed from a fund to be created by a tax not exceeding 2s. 6d. on the £100 of the gross earnings of all the railways and canals, which would give a sum of upwards of £20,000 per annum more than could possibly be required for the expenses of such a tribunal, whilst it would fall very lightly on the railway and canal companies, and be more than repaid to them by the security which they would acquire against continual attacks from rival companies. A bill embodying the views shadowed forth, and, at the same time, making arrangements defining the limits of the broad-gauge system, and laying down some intelligible plan for future railway extensions, whereby the property of the existing railway companies would be protected, without

exposing them to continuous and ruinous parliamentary contests, would indeed be a boon to the railway and commercial interests which every member of it would be grateful for.

CONTRACTORS' LIABILITIES.

In every era of progress new principles of action are developed, which for the moment appear to be sound and satisfactory ; but it is not until the application of the test, occasioned by a monetary depression, that certain evidence of their results can be adduced.

Most persons will recollect the mania that existed little more than a year ago for the introduction of foreign railways and other schemes, the concessions for which fell into the hands of leading contractors, who not only arranged to construct the various undertakings within a specified period, but also guaranteed the payment of interest during the completion of works at rates varying from 4 to 6 per cent.

The stimulus produced by terms so encouraging was not in every case sufficient to make the projects float, because the public, who severely suffered from the panic of 1846-47, could not be generally lured into co-operation with the promoters. The engagements, however, entered into were large, and the proportion of responsibility assumed was necessarily great.

The distinguishing feature in these arrangements which attracted attention at the time, and which has never since been lost sight of, was the manner in which they were completed. A perfect competition existed between engineers and contractors, who, with directors and capital at their command, penetrated all quarters for profitable investments. These, when discovered, were brought out under high auspices, and if they secured support, there was no lack of perseverance to push them forward.

The state of things in the early part of 1853 was favourable to this movement. The bank's rate of discount was then $2\frac{1}{2}$, or at most 3 per cent ; the stock of bullion in the vaults of Threadneedle-street exceeded £20,000,000, and there was fair prospect of ease if not of absolute plethora in the money market. It was consequently considered an advantageous employment of capital and credit to enter into these projects, the contractors at least believing themselves well protected by the terms they had made, and the directors and shareholders relying on the resources of those with whom they had become connected.

The double operation, at first sight, was not discouraging ; the former perceived in the distance large profits from the opening of routes with which other subsidiary schemes were identified ; the latter obtained the payment of an immediate interest upon

deposits, with the prospective inducement of an increased dividend should the undertakings be successfully completed. Upon grounds such as these it was possible to anticipate a satisfactory issue.

Before the close of the year, however, gloom and despondency was everywhere apparent. A deficient harvest, with the approaching war in the East, had created general alarm. The directors of the Bank of England had increased the rate of discount to 5 per cent., and the stock of bullion had descended, notwithstanding continuous imports of Australian and Californian gold, below £16,000,000. As 1854 advances, no mitigation of this depression is experienced; and, although the current quotation of discounts is slightly less stringent, apprehensions concerning the future are, in many respects, more alarming.

The strain upon credit, which was firm and stable twelve or eighteen months back, has augmented in a corresponding ratio. Extensive as resources may be, and influential as connections are, a struggle must ensue to make headway in such perilous periods. The facilities of the money market, which within so short a time have become thoroughly changed, are not now available to one quarter of the extent they formerly were; the best securities, or their representatives, having in the meanwhile undergone a lamentable depreciation.

In what position must parties therefore stand who have adopted responsibilities similar to those enumerated? It is not alone in the shape of interest, or in the ultimate termination of works, that contracts of enormous character are affected; the additional circumstances of the increase of wages and the advanced prices of materials constitute a prominent point for consideration.

Taking a cursory view of the majority of these schemes, the value of these shares has in almost every instance dropped to a heavy discount, and many descriptions cannot be negotiated. It will no doubt be said that the current quotations should not be taken as an index of the positive worth of a great number of such securities, particularly at the present juncture. This is readily admitted, but the fact itself nevertheless shows, that although surrounded by the attraction of the payment of interest during the progress of construction higher in proportion to that obtained from other ordinary investments, these projects are wholly neglected because calls have to be paid, and their final completion may unfortunately sustain an interruption.

In both cases contractors and shareholders have become involved, but for one party alone is there a way to escape. If the shareholders are dissatisfied with their investment, they, if choosing to submit to a considerable sacrifice, can relieve them-

selves from the connection. Not so, however, with the contractors. They have made their engagements with the directors and the general proprietary, some having perhaps deposited available securities for the due execution of works and the payment of the stipulated interest, and they must remain. Events having turned adversely, they find that losses are being incurred at every point, and those projects on which they had founded their best hopes prove anything but profitable enterprises. The rapid and prolific increase of these speculations, although based on a large amount of solid property, cannot be carried out except by a considerable extension of credit; and if our trading and financial resources are to be paralysed through lengthened hostilities with Russia, it is to be feared greater reverses will have yet to be encountered.

It requires little stretch of imagination to show that the disbursement of interest on the amounts paid for these numerous undertakings was a far different question when money ruled at the low value of two-and-a-half or three per cent. than now when it is, on the average, five per cent. When shares were at a premium and contractors' privileges promised far more encouraging results than at present, there was, of course, less difficulty in providing the means; but every incident has changed greatly for the worse, leaving scarcely any room for immediate amendment.

In these days of pressure, when the requirements of the greatest magnates have to be regulated by the demands of the public for accommodation, the lessons of experience gained will, probably, be not without their utility; and the maintenance of position, if secured at the cost of much that has been previously acquired, may produce food for reflection on future occasions. The penalty already paid must have been severe, and no further infliction, by a prolonged period of distress, need be desired to establish the evils attending the expansion of operations beyond due limits.

POSITION OF THE PUBLIC BALANCES.*

THE interesting discussion in the House of Commons, on the 11th of April, respecting the position of the Exchequer at the existing critical juncture, we have thought prudent to present to our readers entire, with some few critical annotations. The question under discussion is of so important a character that it deserves every attention.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer (having laid the balance-sheet for the year upon the table) said,—Sir, I have to move that that paper, being an account of the income and expenditure for the year, do lie on the table. It was my

* Since the address of the Chancellor has been prepared for press, he has given notice of an intended issue of £6,000,000 Exchequer-bonds.

intention to make a statement in some detail, with reference to the subjects which I have included in the notice that appears in my name on the votes—viz., to make a statement respecting the revenue for the year now closed, the condition of the public balances, and the condition of the unfunded debt; but the right hon. gentleman opposite, the Member for Buckinghamshire, has to-night moved for further information upon a variety of points connected with these subjects, and I therefore think that, so far as the matter of argument is concerned—or matter with respect to which there may be differences of opinion—I shall do well, so far as I am a party concerned, in postponing any reference, whether as to the objections or defences, to topics of that nature. My intention, therefore, is to confine myself entirely to statements which may be called statements upon matters of fact, and my reason for making statements of this kind to the House, at the present period, is that, in the first place, I have not yet had the opportunity of presenting to the House a complete account of the income and expenditure of the past year; and, in the second place, because it is exceedingly important, at a moment of alarm and excitability, like the present, that the public should be in possession of the most authentic information on points on which they naturally desire to be informed.* At the same time, considering the nature of the discussion which we have been passing through, during the principal part of the evening that has elapsed, I shall endeavour to be very brief in the particulars which I shall lay before the House. Those members who have examined the account of the revenue of the country, published on the 6th of April, will not have failed to observe, or, at least, to infer from that account that it is a more favourable return than, on the 6th of March, I had given the House reason to expect. (Hear.)† The improvement, in fact, on the 6th of April, as compared with my estimate of the 6th of March, was no less than £749,000; but it must not be supposed that so considerable a difference is to be accounted for by any substantial change of circumstances. I spoke to the House at that period of the necessary uncertainty attending the collection of the income-tax in Ireland, and of the extended income-tax in England, as to the precise period when that amount would come into the Exchequer, on account of the variety of new circumstances which the revenue department had to encounter. However, that department was enabled to reduce very greatly the amount of arrears which I then thought it safe to estimate would be carried over to the present year. If there is any difference, as regards the ultimate receipt, it is merely a difference as to the time of the money arriving at the Exchequer; but the difference between the estimate I submitted on the 6th of March, with reference to the income-tax and the amount received is £417,000. (Hear, hear.) Another portion of the difference to which I have referred was under the head of Customs' revenue. The Customs' revenue has been subject to the action of an exceptional cause on account of the anticipation of the reduction in the tea duties. The effect of that reduction was necessarily to diminish, to a very great extent, the number of entries for the payment of duty on account of tea for delivery from the warehouses during the past quarter, and therefore there was a great loss on that account. But the operation of that loss has been recovered, because parties being anxious to deliver the tea at a very early hour on the morning of the 6th of April, this to a certain extent involved the payment of duties on the previous day, the 5th of April, and thus a large sum of money came into charge on that day which, properly speaking, belonged to the next quarter.

* Mr. Gladstone deserves credit for his intention, and the public appreciate his desire to give full information.

† This fact is admitted, and proves that the Chancellor has not been too sanguine in his estimate.

(Hear, hear.) These are the two main causes, and, indeed, the only causes to which I may refer as accounting for the excess of revenue received on the 5th of April as compared with my estimate of the 6th of March. (Hear.) The House will observe, in examining the balance-sheet on the table, that the excess of income over expenditure on the year ending the 5th of April last amounted to £3,524,000. The excess of income over expenditure for the year ending the 5th of April, 1853, was £2,460,000.* The estimate I had made on the 6th of March of the excess of income over expenditure was £2,854,000, that of course being increased in consequence, as I have shown, of the receipt of money between that period and the 5th of April, which I should not have been warranted by the revenue department in admitting among my calculations. This gives me the opportunity of observing upon one among many elements of uncertainty—though they are all confined within certain limits—that attach to our present system of accounts. If the balance of the present year had been formed precisely in the same manner as the balance of last year—if the same sums had been paid out of the Exchequer for the purpose of supplying the Paymaster-General's accounts for supply service, the balance would have been less by fully £500,000. In making a comparison, therefore, between the surplus of the present year and the surplus of the past year, the House will do well to estimate the present surplus at £3,000,000 instead of £3,524,000. It may be asked, why was there this difference? Why, under the same system, have we not received the same payments as during the last year for the same period? The reason is this, that under authority vested in the Treasury by the House of Commons, a certain amount of Exchequer-bills—half-a-million—was about to be issued at that period, and under a fiction of law—for I really cannot call it anything but a fiction—in which the manipulation, if I may so call it, of these operations is conducted, there is no choice as to the mode of bringing the Exchequer-bills to account, and you cannot realise the proceeds in the Exchequer, which, so far as I am able to judge, might be done by a more rational mode of procedure, but they are issued to the Paymaster-General for supply service, thus passing by the Exchequer altogether. If, therefore, this half-million, which stood at the credit of the Paymaster-General on the 5th of April, had stood in lieu of an equivalent sum which would have been issued to his credit from the Exchequer, and, if these Exchequer-bills had not been issued at the particular period I have referred to, this amount would have been fairly included in our surplus. For the reason I have stated, however, half-a-million ought to be deducted from the whole surplus; and, therefore, the actual surplus of income over expenditure for the year may fairly and safely be stated at £3,000,000. (Hear, hear.)† I think the House will be of opinion that this is a very satisfactory result, so far as we have seen, with respect to the indications which it affords as to the state of the trade and industry of the country and the condition of the people, though that trade and industry must necessarily have undergone some contraction, or, at any rate, some retardation in its increase in consequence of political events and the obstruction of trade both in the Baltic and in the Levant. (Hear, hear.) It is a more satisfactory result still, when it is borne in mind that the sums which I anticipated I should receive within the year from the increase of taxes proposed during that year have been less than we anticipated. Last year you remitted, in round numbers, £2,600,000 of taxes, and you laid on taxes which ultimately were to produce

* A very satisfactory statement, and one showing the perfect success of the general Government measures.

† Why is this anomaly in the arrangement of these transactions not speedily rectified? It should be; and we trust that if Mr. Gladstone remains in power he will do his best to get rid of any future mystification of the kind.

a large annual amount; but, while £2,600,000 had been given in relief, the additional taxes laid on during the last year had only brought into the Exchequer by the 5th of April the sum of about £700,000. The whole remissions have been in operation, and the substituted taxes have come very partially into play, and therefore, speaking in round numbers, while you remitted £2,000,000 of taxes more than you laid on, you have a surplus of £3,000,000 in your income.* (Hear, hear.) That is all I think it necessary to state with respect to the revenue of the past year. I now come to another question, with respect to which it is desirable the House should be informed, and that is, the state of the public balances. And here I shall most sedulously avoid reference, in the way of defence or discussion, to the mode in which the state of the public balances has been brought about, my only object at the present moment being to provide the House with trustworthy, real, and accurate information.† On the 5th of April, 1853, the balance in the Exchequer was returned at £7,859,000; on the 5th of April, 1854, the balance was returned at £2,778,000, showing a decrease of £5,081,000, or, in round numbers, something over £5,000,000.‡ Then it is right that you should perceive how that reduction of balance has been brought about. How public funds have been applied during the year, over and above the ordinary methods of expenditure, under the following heads and to the following extent:—£8,048,000 of funded debt has been paid off; £716,000 have been paid away in advances under the head which is known as that of public works, over and above the ordinary expenditure under that head; and this amount of £716,000 does not indicate or belong to any extension of the scheme of public works, but it has arisen, under the Metropolitan Advances Act of last session, being a mere transfer of money, and having nothing to do with any public works that have been performed. (Hear, hear.) Besides that, the unfunded debt was reduced between the months April, 1853, and April, 1854, by £1,718,000, so that the reduction of debt and the payments we have made under these three items, amount altogether to £10,482,000.§ (Hear, hear.) I have shown that of this £10,482,000, about £5,000,000 is represented in the decrease of balances in the Exchequer; but, besides that, there was a sum of £1,274,000 of stock created in the name of the commissioners for the reduction of the national debt, in respect to Exchequer-bills which they had purchased and cancelled; and there was likewise an amount of about £420,000 of altogether new debt in the name of Exchequer-bonds. Putting together, therefore, the diminution in the balances, the new funded debt created in the name of the National Debt Commissioners and the Exchequer-bonds, we come to a sum of £6,775,000, against the £10,482,000, of which I have already spoken. The remainder, £3,707,000, is chiefly accounted for by the surplus revenue.¶ The balance in the Exchequer, as it appears in the balance-sheet, is £2,778,000; and now it is desirable that I should make a statement to the House with reference to the manner in which that balance is brought up to the amount necessary to cover the charge upon the quarter just gone, being the largest during the present year. The amount of the charge, consisting as it does of the interest in the permanent debt and the terminable annuities, and of the amount to be applied to the

* This contrast is strictly correct, and it exhibits an encouraging picture of the late internal condition of the country.

† Most properly so, because his favourite conversion scheme proved thoroughly abortive.

‡ A very heavy and most alarming decrease.

§ The principal items of the £8,000,000 funded debt comprised South Sea Stock (the capital of the company), South Sea Annuities and Bank Annuities.

¶ In every respect accurately estimated and most lucidly defined.

sinking fund in respect of surplus revenue, is, of course, very much larger, as will be seen, on the 6th of April, than on the previous year. In the statement which is published regularly, the probable amount of deficiency-bills required to meet the charge of the last quarter, is stated at £5,852,000. It is not unnatural that some uneasiness should prevail in the public mind—deluded and mystified, as I must say it is, by our system of public accounts—when anything called by the name of deficiency appears to reach such a formidable amount as £5,852,000.* However, according to ordinary usage, some deduction must be made from this sum, and the actual amount of deficiency-bills brought to charge in April, 1854, was £5,472,000. This, however, makes no material difference; £5,472,000 is a very large sum of money to have the ugly word “deficiency” attached to, and I confess I do not wonder that gentlemen who are not aware what the figures really mean, should be astounded at the idea of demands being made on the Bank of England from the public for temporary accommodation to so large an amount.† I wish the House to understand what the amount of this accommodation really is, and, if hon. members will follow me, they will find that the figures which I have just quoted, bear no rational relation to it. In the first place, it may be observed, that even in April, 1853, when the balances in the Exchequer were extremely low, and the apparent amount of deficiency-bills to be issued £1,407,000, a large sum of public money was in possession of the Bank of England. But of this sum of £1,407,000, not more than £300,000 was chargeable with interest.‡ The sum brought to charge in April, 1853, then was £300,000, while, in April, 1854, the present quarter, it is £5,472,000, being an apparent increase of £5,172,000. The House and the public will naturally be desirous of knowing what has occasioned this increased amount of deficiency-bills and accommodation from the bank. The fact is, however, that the figures given in the accounts, as now drawn up, indicate anything but the real state of the account of the public with the bank; they do not tell the truth to the public, but leave persons to draw false inferences, and, therefore, I think it material to state the facts to the House, the more particularly, because I perceive that even the best informed persons out of doors are under the belief that the amount of deficiency-bills, stated in the account published on the 6th of April last, really represents a similar amount of accommodation given by the Bank of England to the Government.§ The way in which these sums are calculated is this—it is reckoned on the assumption that the whole of the charge which has accrued against the public, which the public is liable to pay, and which the public will be called upon to pay, in the course of the incoming quarter, will be effectively charged at the commencement of the quarter, although it is evident from experience—and experience is sometimes more certain than demonstration—that it will not be so charged at the commencement of the

* A re-arrangement of the system of public accounts should, without delay, be insisted upon.

† If the public may be supposed to be not aware, those practically acquainted with the working of finance are, of the manner in which the process is effected; and they never presumed that any such amount of accommodation was required from the bank.

‡ Still the initiation of the principle was unsatisfactory, and ought to have been cautiously followed when adopted. The “fatal facility” afforded by the “deficiency” system, no doubt tempted Mr. Gladstone to indulge in theory rather than to be guided by practice.

§ No parties acquainted with Government finance ever supposed so; what they in reality supposed was, that the Chancellor was pushing the “deficiency” system to too great an extent, and in this supposition they were undoubtedly correct.

quarter, but that a large portion of the money represented by the figures will remain in the hands of the bank, until the calls of the public have been overtaken by the growing revenue of the quarter. This is the way the discrepancy arises. What does the House suppose is the amount of the discrepancy? We have heard statements from hon. members—and I do not impute blame to them on this account—of the great amount of accommodation which the Government had obtained from the bank at the opening of the present quarter. Four, five, or six millions were spoken of as the amount of this accommodation. The real amount is very different. Having taken advice as to my competency to do it, I have deemed it my duty—not so much with a view to any pecuniary saving, as for the removal of what I conceive to be, at this moment, a mischievous and dangerous misapprehension—to regulate the issue of these deficiency-bills in point of time, with some reference to the coming demands on the bank; that is to say, to apply to this particular part of the public service the self-same principle which is applied to every other branch of the public service, the principle, namely, of charging the account only in proportion to what are known to be the coming demands upon it. By the adoption of that rule, the total amount of deficiency-bills chargeable against the public is reduced from the formidable figure at which it stands in the papers before the House, namely, £5,852,000, to the much more moderate figure of £2,808,000.* The sum of £2,808,000 represents the amount of deficiency-bills chargeable against the public yesterday. I am not able to state what the amount is to-day, but I believe it is not more and probably it is less. £2,808,000 was the amount of deficiency-bills chargeable yesterday. Let it not be supposed that the deficiency-bills have been reduced to this amount by unduly starving the public account, and running the risk of exposing those who have just claims to receive the answer, “No effects.” On the contrary, the balance on the audit roll, or dividend account yesterday, when the business of the bank terminated, was £679,000. The actual amount of accommodation afforded to the public yesterday, was £2,129,000. I am not about to enter into details connected with this subject at the present moment, but I confess my opinion is, that if we were at peace, if we had not a growing expenditure, if there was not the risk that the expenditure may possibly grow with greater rapidity, and at the same time, with greater uncertainty than in ordinary times, £2,129,000 is not an extravagant sum to receive in accommodation from the bank, when we look to the amount of the quarter’s revenue, and the mode in which it accumulates from the commencement of the quarter to its close. This, in my opinion, has reference to ordinary circumstances, not to those of the present moment. At the present time it must obviously be our desire to take security against chances which at other times it would not be necessary to take into consideration; I speak, therefore, of this £2,129,000 as an amount to be progressively reduced, as, I doubt not, it will be without the smallest difficulty.† What I wish to impress upon the House is, that the sum in question represents the actual amount of accommodation afforded to the public by the bank, and that the sum of £5,842,000, which appears in the quarterly account, really has reference to no actual transaction. [Mr. Disraeli.—You have not stated the amount of requirements.] I thought I had done so. My object

* Even this amount, approaching as it does £3,000,000, is excessive.

† This admission is encouraging, since it shows that Mr. Gladstone, although endeavouring to support the position he has assumed, is at last compelled to admit, that under present circumstances, it is desirable to reduce the amount of accommodation required from the bank. Few individuals apprehend a “stoppage of the Exchequer,” but the advances were obtaining a considerable share of notoriety.

has been to show that the nominal amount of deficiency-bills, which appears in the quarterly statement, represents the difference between the amount of requirements and the balance actually in the Exchequer on the 5th of April, and that the amount of accommodation from the bank, which really is an accruing and approaching charge, is given in the same statement as if it were an actual charge. I will now refer to another point which has not been noticed in this House, but which has been the subject of a considerable observation out of doors. It has been supposed that large and unusual demands have been made by the Government on the bank of a character calculated to reduce the amount of capital in the market available for commercial purposes. If we were going on from year to year with the expenditure exceeding the income, which it was necessary to make up by deficiency-bills, or even if it should be found necessary to issue deficiency-bills in consequence of this House not having provided adequate funds to meet the public expenditure, I can understand that, *pro tanto*, the effect would be to withdraw from commerce some portion of those resources on which commercial men rely for carrying on their transactions; but there never was anything so ludicrously erroneous as the statement that, in the present case, the demands of the Government have withdrawn from the general purposes of the London money market, either the large sum set down in the quarterly statement under the head of deficiency-bills, or the smaller sum which I have mentioned as the correct one, or, indeed, any sum at all.* Exactly the contrary is the case. The truth is, that every farthing of the large disbursements which the Government pays out goes into the money market, and is available for the purposes of commerce. The supposed amount of loanable capital withdrawn on the 5th April, was £2,129,000, but on the 7th the Government paid out into the money market £2,000,000. What became of that sum? It was not like £2,000,000 consumed in an excess of expenditure over income. It was paid to the holders of stock. They did not tie the money up in napkins and put it away. No; they either employed it in commercial transactions or purchased other stock with it, and in either case the money was just as available for the purposes as if it had remained in the balances of the bank. This was the case as respects the present quarter, but look at the last. In January £6,048,000 was in like manner paid out of the Government funds of the bank into the money market and added to the loanable capital of the country. The whole amount added to loanable capital by these payments from the balances and by deficiency-bills has been, in round numbers, £8,000,000, while the whole amount withdrawn from the market by accommodation from the bank amounted up to yesterday to the sum of £2,129,000.† These are matters of fact which admit of no argument, and I think they show that the Government have not, in the pro-

* An obviously incorrect deduction. Mr. Gladstone may attempt to pass it over as he can, but the accommodation afforded by the bank to Government has interfered with the supply capital available for commercial purposes. In the face of a declining stock of bullion and unfavourable exchanges, the bank directors have been in a less unshackled position than formerly, because it was evident from the first failure of the conversion scheme, that the Chancellor of the Exchequer would, unless he resorted to a loan, be compelled to become a borrower to a greater or less extent upon "deficiency" bills. The apprehended call has, therefore, made them more chary than usual in affording facilities.

† No doubt these payments have temporarily tended to ease the money market, but the effect has been purely transitory. Had these amounts not been paid out, would the funds have been supported at their present quotations? In any other case it is probable that Consols would have touched a very low point.

cess of liquidating stock, withdrawn from the money market any portion of the funds which, under ordinary circumstances, are applied to purposes of commerce. I must shortly refer to another point, because it is one which is supposed to involve a breach of faith. An idea is entertained by some persons that in 1844 a compact, not written but understood, was entered into between the Government and the bank—I do not mean to say that this notion is countenanced by any persons connected with the bank—according to which, demands for deficiency-bills were not to be made upon the bank, under the charter then granted. Of this compact no trace can be found; but a written compact exists, drawn up in very express terms. The terms of the contract were fully discussed at the time between Mr. Goulburn and the then governor and deputy-governor of the bank, and the agreement arrived at was this—that when the public balances should be below what at that time was their usual amount, the bank should have a claim for interest against the Government, and, on the other hand, that when they should be above the usual amount, the Government should have a claim against the bank for a share of the profits arising from the deposits. On a future occasion I may feel it my duty to enter more fully into this subject, which has some important considerations connected with it; I now refer to this compact only for the purpose of showing that the assumption on which Mr. Goulburn and the governor and deputy-governor of the bank proceeded was, that the public balances, and, consequently, the amount of deficiency-bills—for they are correlative—were to remain in future as they stood at that time. The question then arises, what was the state of the public balances and the extent of demand for deficiency-bills at that time? If I were to refer, as I might, to the amount of deficiency-bills and public balances in the year before the compact was entered into, I should almost appear to prove too much. What I purpose doing is this—to take the two quarters immediately preceding the arrangements entered into between the Government and the bank as a measure of the usual state of the public balances and demand for deficiency-bills, because these two quarters make the best case for the bank, as showing the largest amount of balances. In the quarter ending the 5th January, 1844, the amount of balances was £5,462,000; and on the 5th of April, 1844, it was £3,967,000. Let us compare this with the account for 1854, which is supposed to present such remarkable features. On the 5th of January, 1854, the balances were £3,711,002 and on the 5th of April, 1854, they were £5,472,000. The average of the two quarters of 1844 was £4,714,000, and the average of 1854 was £4,591,000. Thus it appears that the average of 1854 is less by £123,000 than the average of 1844, when the Government entered into the compact with the bank.* I now turn to the question of Exchequer-bills. The amount of those securities was, in 1853, £17,742,000, and the minimum point attained during the year was £12,897,000. The present amount of Exchequer-bills is about £16,600,000, while the amount which Parliament has authorised to be issued is £17,774,000, and, therefore, the actual issue is £1,174,000 short of that authorised. It is probable that some portion of the remaining amount may be issued from time to time, as the exigencies of the service may require, but I have no reason at present to expect that it will be necessary for me to apply to Parliament for a further grant of Exchequer-bills during this session.† A few words more on a matter immediately relating to the unfunded debt. I beg to assure the House that in what I have said or may say, I am influenced by no merely per-

* This is clear and intelligible, but the circumstances regulating the two periods are widely different.

† It is to be hoped no further grant of Exchequer-bills will be required this session, but it is almost morally certain that the issue of £17,774,000 must, before long, be completed.

sional considerations; all I am anxious for is the maintenance of those sound principles on which the security of our financial system depends, and by an adherence to which alone we can hope to meet all demands which may be made on the Exchequer. The present state of public credit is not unsatisfactory. About a fortnight ago something, which I will not designate a panic or even alarm, but only apprehension, prevailed.* No people in the world have more self-command and knowledge of their own affairs than the people of this country. In times of trouble and disturbance the imagination is active, and men sometimes take an erroneous view of their position, but in this country the public mind soon recovers from any temporary aberration of this kind. Let us look at the matter as it stands. Perhaps the best way of estimating the present condition of public credit is to compare the price of public securities here with the price of corresponding securities in the most favourable foreign country, and secondly with their price in this country at a former period. I will therefore compare the state of our public credit now with what it was twelve months ago, and with the state of the public credit of France. On the 1st of April, 1853, the price of the French Three per Cents. was 79f. 25c.; on the 1st of April, 1854, they were 62f. 60c.; so that there was a fall of 16f. 65c., or nearly 21 per cent. I will now take English Consols. On the 1st of April, 1853, they were at 99½; on the 1st of April, 1854, they were at 86½. Thus there was a fall of 13½, or a decline of about 14 per cent. in the value of those great securities in England, compared with 21 per cent. decline in similar securities in France.† (Hear, hear.) Now compare the present price of Consols with what it was twenty years ago—and I trust the House will remember that we are in the midst of an European war, and that we are called upon to provide extra armaments for the purposes of the war. I do not propose to go back to years of war in producing my standard of comparison; but I assert, that compared with years of peace, the present state of the public funds is not altogether devoid of material for satisfaction and congratulation. There are six, within the last twenty years of peace, in which the price of Consols has gone lower than it now is in the midst of war. Those years are—1847, when the price was, 79½; 1848, when it was 80½.‡ Four other years preceded—years of peace—when Consols still went down. In 1841 they were 87½; in 1840 they were 87; in 1836—a year of great prosperity—they declined to 86¼; and in 1834—a year of uniform prosperity—they were only at 87¼.§ It appears, therefore, that you have not always been able to keep up the price of Consols. What is the state of our public securities now, in the midst of disturbance and menace, compared with France, or with a few years ago in this country? On the 1st of April, 1853, Exchequer-bills in England—I am going to institute a comparison between Exchequer-bills and

* Here issue must be joined with Mr. Gladstone. It was a panic that prevailed and nothing less, as most experienced people in the city will admit.

† A specious comparison, and although considerably in favour of England, it must not be forgotten that our quotations have been sustained in a measure through the known resources of Australia; while on the other hand, France, being without such aid and in difficulty, has been obliged to raise a loan of £10,000,000 sterling.

‡ These two years, if not subject to the horrors of war, were beclouded by events little less dreadful, the great commercial crisis in our own country, and the deposition of Louis Philippe from the throne of France. As a peace period, perhaps this was the least auspicious Mr. Gladstone could have selected.

§ In these other years there were events which will account for the fluctuations; and if the American panic with its effect on this side is to be altogether unheeded, then the contrast may be relied on as satisfactory.

similar documents in France, *Bons de Trésor*—stood at $1\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.; on the 1st of April, 1854, they stood at 3 per cent., being an increase of upwards of 100 per cent. in the rate of interest. On the 1st of April, 1853, corresponding documents in France bore a rate of interest varying according to the terms—according to *échanges*—from $1\frac{1}{2}$ and 2 to 3 per cent., the mean rate being $2\frac{1}{4}$ per cent. On the 1st of April, 1854, our bills stood at $4\frac{1}{2}$, 5, and $5\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., the mean rate being 5 per cent. While we, therefore, have an increase of from $1\frac{1}{2}$ to 3 upon £100, the French increase is from $2\frac{1}{4}$ to 5, or very nearly 122 per cent. I have, therefore, shown that the rate of interest is lower in this country than in France, and that the rate of interest in several subsequent years is lower than it is in France. This is the whole statement with which I think it necessary to preface the motion which I have to make. I have confined myself strictly to matters of fact, although I might have had much more to say—altogether warranted by the importance of the subject—upon this very subject. No doubt, many occasions may arise on which this portion of the management of the debt may be discussed. I trust I have shown that, taking all circumstances into consideration, it is needless to view with any alarm or apprehension what has occurred within the last few weeks.* With respect to the unfunded debt, it is moderate, and likely so to continue, which is gratifying under the difficult and menacing circumstances in which this country and the whole of Europe are placed. Having said thus much, sir, I will only move that the balance-sheet be laid upon the table.

Mr. Disraeli.—While I agree with the right hon. gentleman that the occasion for laying the balance-sheet upon the table is not a convenient opportunity for discussion, still it must be admitted that the Chancellor of the Exchequer has opportunities to collect and compare his facts and statements which I have not. I accept the promise of the right hon. gentleman, that he would make no observations beyond those naturally and necessarily deduced from his motion upon the paper. The returns which I have moved for, have no reference to the present matters in dispute. I confine myself, therefore, to matters of fact; and I beg to remind the House, in vindication of previous statements of my own, of one or two circumstances which should not be forgotten—I mean, first, as to the probable amount of balances in the Exchequer at the end of the financial year; and, secondly—a very important point—as to the amount of deficiency-bills. I stated that, so far as I could form an estimate, it appeared to me that the balance in the Exchequer, upon the 5th of April, would not exceed £3,000,000. The right hon. gentleman, upon that occasion, said that he had the misfortune to differ from me. I beg to remind the House that my estimate was not prepared with the data which the right hon. gentleman has at his command; still, the present balance, which is not more, I believe, than £2,800,000, affords a proof that my estimate is more accurate than his. It appeared to me, also, that the right hon. gentleman would require £6,000,000 of deficiency-bills. The right hon. gentleman said that the deficiency-bills would not exceed £4,000,000 or £4,500,000. I said £6,000,000. It now appears that they amount to £5,442,000. I think, therefore, that I was much more accurate in my estimate of the amount of deficiency-bills than the right hon. gentleman. Having adverted to these two topics, I must make to the House one or two observations upon the subject of deficiency-bills. I confess that, to me, the statement of the right hon. gentleman is not satisfactory. The right hon. gentleman acknowledges that the public requirements exceed the resources, at the end of the financial year, to the amount of £6,000,000, but he says that we did not require to borrow that amount from the bank—the revenue came in, and he managed to get on;

* The alarm will be revived unless the Chancellor adopts speedy measures to rectify the evil.

but he could not conceal from the country that he was, at that time, deficient to the extent of £6,000,000. The right hon. gentleman may put off the evil hour; still the fact remains that the public treasury is *minus* £6,000,000.* The right hon. gentleman treats very lightly, and, I must say, that he very ingeniously glozed over, the very important subject to which I am about to refer. I shall follow his example, and adhere to facts, but not enter into any arguments upon the subject, although I must observe that the views which the right hon. gentleman expressed upon the subject are not the views which are entertained by men of business, who, I believe, daily experience the evils of the system which he proposes to encourage. See, now, what was said upon this subject before the Distress Committee, in 1848. I shall not cull an answer here and there, but I shall quote evidence which, I believe, will be undeniable—I mean the evidence of the hon. member for Kendal. He was asked:—"By the returns before the committee, it appears that, in October, 1841, there was a demand for £4,800,000; in October, 1842, for £4,900,000; in October, 1843, for £3,700,000; in October, 1844, for £2,500,000, and in October, 1845, for £829,000. Subsequently to that, the Exchequer balances becoming full, that demand ceased; but, supposing that, in October, 1847, there had been a demand upon the Bank of England for advances for the public service to the extent of three or four millions, what would have been the consequence of such an advance in the then state of the reserve?" His answer was, "Either the Government must have been refused, or the directors must have limited the commercial discounts in order to meet the demand of the Government, or they must have sold stock to draw in the notes and advance them again upon deficiency-bills."† The examination went on. "It is unnecessary to pursue the consequences of refusing the demand of the Government, which would have been the refusal of the means of paying the dividends; but, passing to the second alternative, what do you conceive would have been the consequence of limiting the commercial accommodation, at that period, to that extent?—There would have been an enormous increase to the pressure. It would have been almost the ruin of the commercial world to have refused discounts then. If two millions had been the amount of the deficiency-bills, I do not think the stock market would have borne the sale of two millions of securities at that time.‡ At any rate, it would have occasioned almost equal pressure as the refusal of discounts, and a great depreciation in Government securities. That period of pressure was relieved by the issue of the letter of Lord John Russell and the Chancellor of the Exchequer." "Do you consider that the effect would have been the same with respect to commercial credit if the letter had been issued, not for the purpose of relieving commercial pressure, but in order to obtain an advance for Government purposes?—I think it would have been a dangerous experiment for the Government to have issued a letter for the purposes of Government, they would not have had much sympathy on the part of the public." "Then, in the event of circumstances happening which, either by increasing the expenditure of the country, or by limiting the revenue of the country, would have the effect of reducing the balances in the Exchequer, is there not, as a consequence, an impending necessity of borrowing upon deficiency-bills to pay the dividends?—Certainly." "Then, in the event of any circumstance reducing the banking reserve to the

* A great fact to be considered and carefully estimated. It is only staving off the evil day, and keeping the country in comparative ignorance of its true position. A great anticipated deficiency should be provided for when a favourable opportunity exists for doing so.

† This is a practical illustration by an experienced authority, Mr. G. C. Glyn, the banker.

‡ Does this come home with full force to Mr. Gladstone's position?

extent to which it was reduced in October last, do you see any mode of extrication from that difficulty at such a period?—Not any mode of relief from that difficulty upon an application made by Government to the bank at any such period. I conceive Government might have been relieved by a loan.* But, says the right hon. gentleman, you had in 1844 and 1845 to meet an amount of deficiency equal to that which I now call upon you to provide for. But what was the state of the balances in the Exchequer in 1844 and 1845? They were much more considerable than they are now. There is an opinion which ought to influence the House upon the subject of Government borrowing upon deficiency-bills. The right hon. gentleman did not advocate the habitual borrowing upon deficiency-bills; and we are unable to gather what the amount of the deficiency-bill is likely to be. But the appeal of the hon. member for Kendal is not the only one. I myself was a member of that committee, and I remember that we had before us one of the principal partners in the house of Baring and Co.—I mean Mr. Bates. What did Mr. Bates say? Mr. Bates attributed the panic of April, 1847, to the fact of the bank being called upon to advance heavily upon deficiency-bills. I want the House to consider this. Are we now in a position which forbids our believing that a panic may ever occur again; and is it advisable that we, with a prospect not merely of an European war, but of a protracted war, should pursue habitually the much to be deprecated system of borrowing upon deficiency-bills? I cannot assent to the statement of the right hon. gentleman so far as the balances in our Exchequer are concerned, or as to the mode by which he proposes to replenish them—namely, by habitually obtaining loans from the Bank on deficiency-bills; nor can I think it one on which the country can be fairly congratulated. If the right hon. gentleman pursues that course he will find himself ultimately in great difficulty.† I would much sooner that he should, during the recess, devise some means by which he could put an end to that necessity; and then, when the next financial discussion takes place—which I suppose will be of a more controversial nature than this—the right hon. gentleman would be in a position which would inspire the country with much more confidence than it at present possesses. (Hear.)

Mr. T. Baring was certainly very much surprised to find that the right hon. gentleman the Chancellor of the Exchequer should have thought it necessary to introduce the paper which he had laid on the table with so long and elaborate a statement. (Hear, hear.) If he had understood him aright, the object of the right hon. gentleman in so doing was to remove any cause of apprehension which might exist out of doors; but the very notice he had given of being about to make a statement, had caused a great deal more alarm and apprehension than had existed before. (Hear, hear.) It was bruited about that they were to have a loan—that a fresh income-tax was to be proposed—in fact, all sorts of rumours were abroad, and it turned out at last that all the right hon. gentleman wanted, was to compare the state of the French and English funds, and to tell the House that the English funds were not so low, and the deficiency not greater than it was in 1844—a period following the enactment of Sir R. Peel's income-tax, which was intended to correct the very evils which he (Mr. Baring) was afraid were now arising. (Hear, hear.) He certainly should not have thought it necessary for the right

* The relief that Mr. Gladstone ought, without further hesitation, to avail himself of, if he wishes to avoid further embarrassment at the close of the year.

† This is the opinion of a great number of practical financial authorities; who, while acknowledging the ability of the Chancellor of the Exchequer, consider that he is too ardent an experimentalist.

hon. gentleman to enter into so long a statement for the single purpose of removing any apprehension which he might think existed. He could see no cause for alarm or apprehension; the only mode in which any cause could arise would be by mismanagement, and he trusted that, after all that had passed, the Chancellor of the Exchequer would, in his future financial proceedings, show more prudence than he was afraid had been displayed during the last year. (Hear.) He had certainly heard with great regret that the right hon. gentleman recognised as the basis of the system, that he should not provide for the expenditure which he had to meet by the incoming revenue, but that he should rely upon the subsequent accruing revenue, and meet the deficiency by Exchequer-bills. He quite agreed that the Government had a very fair claim for accommodation and assistance on the Bank of England, seeing that no private credit could be maintained in this country if the slightest suspicion were thrown on the maintenance of the public faith. (Hear, hear.) The Government had the first claim on the bank, no doubt, and that assistance, under ordinary circumstances, might be rendered by the bank, not only without damage to the commercial body, but also with profit to itself; but the right hon. gentleman must remember, before calling for that assistance too often and too systematically, and before making deficiency-bills the basis of his system, that circumstances might arise which no Government could foresee, in which that assistance, if demanded from the bank, could not be afforded without interfering very largely, under the present banking system, with the condition of the banking community.* His right hon. friend, the member for Bucks, had alluded to the evidence of the hon. member for Kendal, but it would be seen that that hon. member, when giving evidence and advocating the course taken by the Chancellor of the Exchequer of relying on deficiency-bills, had very shrewdly remarked immediately afterwards, that in that case the bill of 1844 must be altered. Without entering into an argument on that subject, he might say that if the act of 1844 was to be fairly tried, the Government must not resort to the system of keeping small balances, and obtaining the aid of the Bank by deficiency-bills. In fact, a shrewd opponent of that act could not take a course more likely to damage it than to advise the Chancellor of the Exchequer not to provide for his deficiency, but to rely on the aid of the Bank of England by means of deficiency-bills.† He was convinced that great injury would arise to public credit if this system of relying on what were, in point of fact, advances from the bank were resorted to, and it was on this account that he desired to enter his protest against it as a policy fraught with danger to the financial security of the country. (Hear, hear.) In France the system had been too much strained, and great difficulty had been felt in consequence, and the right hon. gentleman, too, might find it not so easy to get out Exchequer-bills as he would have found it to keep them out at a reduced rate. He might find it, too, not so easy to borrow money from the Bank of England, and then, probably, he would be driven to apply for a loan at a much less favourable moment.‡ (Hear.) He would not, however, be supposed to be of opinion that the country was not, and ought not to be able to raise a loan without the least damage to the future

* The point, very sensibly and cleverly put, as showing the relative position of the parties interested.

† An argument that has been frequently held as showing the impolicy of the system.

‡ The very result that will be sure to happen, should the Chancellor of the Exchequer attempt to obtain assistance in the manner described. He has already lost a splendid opportunity while Consols were much higher to have effected such a negotiation.

prosperity of this country (hear, hear), and he thought the right hon. gentleman in his budget-speech took a very narrow view of the subject when he stated that our great debt threw impediments in the way of our raising a loan. (Hear.) Prove the war to be just and necessary, and every effort would be made by the country to carry it on, and, although it might be very well to say that, so long as they could, they should meet the expenses of the war by taxation in the year, yet when those expenses were changed from £2,000,000 to £20,000,000 they would not be able, neither would it be just, to raise such a sum as that from the annual taxation—from the capital, in fact, of the country.* If they attempted such a course, capital would be driven out of the country, the resources of the country would be impaired, and posterity would feel its effects quite as much in proportion as the present generation. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. Laing agreed with the Chancellor of the Exchequer that great good would be done by disabusing the public mind of the statements which had been put forth with regard to the great amount of the deficiency-bills. He believed there was nothing whatever in the present state of things to justify anything like alarm or apprehension. From the figures before the House it appeared that our balances in the Exchequer had been diminished by some £5,000,000 or £6,000,000 below the amount at which they would otherwise have stood, and that that amount had been employed in paying off the South Sea Stock and other funds.† He went along with the right hon. gentleman in making that experiment, but he thought that when it was found a mistake had been made, it would have been the wiser course to propose a conversion of a large proportion of the stock into ordinary stock, offering some small bonus to the holders, which might have induced them to take the stock instead of being paid in money. The wisest mode of replenishing the balances, lowered by this operation, would be, he thought, by a loan, and it would be better for the Chancellor of the Exchequer to propose it now, when he could get it under favourable conditions.

Sir H. Willoughby would only say, upon the question of balances, that in his view it would be better for the right hon. gentleman, by some means or other, to restore his balances, if necessary, by a direct loan.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer said, the right hon. gentleman (Mr. Disraeli) and, still more, the hon. member for Huntingdon (Mr. T. Baring) had entirely misapprehended, and, consequently, had misstated to the House both the language he had used, and the principles and opinions he had expressed. The right hon. member for Buckinghamshire said, "It won't do for you to be an habitual borrower upon the bank;" and the hon. member for Huntingdon declared that he (the Chancellor of the Exchequer) made the use of deficiency-bills the keystone of his system of finance. Now, he had never used any such language, and had never done any such thing. What was the truth about his being an habitual borrower? Why, this was the first quarter he had borrowed at all (hear, hear); and, under such

* The country cannot bear excessive taxation, especially if it be extended in the direction which the Chancellor seems most inclined to adopt. No longer delay should be allowed, but he should come forward freely and arrest his difficulty by contracting a loan. The majority of practical thinkers are in favour of this course.

† What the Chancellor should have done immediately he found his scheme inoperative would have been to abandon it, and cheerfully confess that he had been defeated by circumstances over which he had no control. The Exchequer balances would then not have been interfered with, and the bank would have been left in a much easier position.

circumstances, it was very hard to be charged with being an habitual borrower. He had been furnished by the bank with a statement of the amount of deficiency-bills issued and brought to charge during the last quarter, and the result of this statement was, that there were only eight days during the last quarter—during the previous quarters he believed there were not any at all—at which the bank was in advance of the public balances, and upon those eight days the amount of accommodation varied from £29,000 to £125,000. The sum of £125,000 was the largest amount of accommodation from the bank during the last quarter. There was, he repeated, no foundation for the statement that he was an habitual borrower—far less that he had made the issue of deficiency-bills the keystone of his system of finance. Nothing which he had ever said, and nothing which he had ever done, bore the slightest correspondence with the statement of the hon. member for Huntingdon on this point. He had, indeed, said—and this was a matter no doubt open to discussion—that a moderate and limited use of deficiency-bills was, in his opinion, a good and prudent practice.

Mr. T. Baring.—I did not attribute to the right hon. gentleman the use of the expression that the issue of deficiency-bills was the keystone of his financial system. I only said that was the tenour of his argument. (Hear.)

The Chancellor of the Exchequer continued,—How was it possible that any such deduction could have been made from what he had said, when his argument went only to the extent that you might, within narrow limits, go to the bank for advances which might be taken up within a week or fortnight of the quarter's revenue? The amount of deficiency-bills was the result of the extraordinary demands made for the liquidation of stock. But a more important point than this was, that the right hon. gentleman and other hon. members were under the impression that a deficiency of this kind, once created, was not to be restored without the use of some extraordinary measure. Now, he might tell the hon. member (Mr. T. Baring) what, if he might say so, was the keystone of his system of finance. It was invariably to ask this House to provide an income which would more than meet the expenditure of the year. (Hear, hear.) That, in his opinion, was the keystone of finance, and his secondary doctrine was this—that the question of having a large or a small balance at the bank was a question open to discussion, but it was a matter of no great moment, provided you kept within narrow bounds, and provided you always adhered to the principle of avoiding a deficiency upon the year's account, of avoiding a fictitious surplus, and of having an income which would always more than cover your expenditure. (Hear, hear.) The right hon. gentleman the member for Buckinghamshire had stated that he trusted he (the Chancellor of the Exchequer) would devise some means of escaping from his present situation in respect to the public balances during the recess. Now, the statement which he (the Chancellor of the Exchequer) had made to-night was, with the same exception, what he had stated about the issue of Exchequer-bills—it was a retrospective statement. He had admitted that, although he did not consider there would be anything inconvenient or alarming in the present amount of accommodation under ordinary circumstances, yet that, under present circumstances, the case was not exactly the same. (Hear.) He admitted that at such a period as this we ought to have a wider margin at the bank, that we ought to take what in ordinary phraseology was called more elbow-room, with reference to the provision of means for the public service.* (Hear.) Upon that subject it

* The next statement on the financial affairs of the country will probably eliminate the plan which the Chancellor of the Exchequer will propose to adopt. The necessity of prompt action must be urged once more upon his attention.

would be absurd to enter into a discussion at the present moment. It might be his duty to take a further view of the demands of the public service for the year, and, if he was unfortunately compelled to do so, then would be the time to state to the House the means by which he proposed to place the Exchequer in what he believed to be a safe and satisfactory condition. (Hear, hear.)

The paper was then ordered to be laid upon the table.

THE RAILWAY INTEREST OF THE UNITED KINGDOM.

THE meetings of the various railway companies of the United Kingdom for the past half-year having been brought to a close, we append the results, with a synopsis of the balance-sheets of the principal companies. Upon a careful examination, they do not present any important materials for immediate consideration. The usual dividends, contrary to expectation, have in almost every instance been declared—the exceptions being on the favourable side. The traffic returns, generally, show an important increase; and, as there is an increasing disposition on the part of shareholders to investigate more critically the proceedings of their several directories, and reduce expenditure by every legitimate means, there is reason to hope that railway property may maintain its present position, if it does not eventually improve.

The character of the railway market recently has been comparatively steady, considering the violent fluctuations the funds have experienced; but shares generally have, nevertheless, been depreciated, guaranteed descriptions especially having suffered a decline. It is satisfactory to find that traffic continues to be so steadily extended; and were it not for the altered position of the money market, and the increased rise in wages and materials, dividends might reasonably be expected to increase, but we fear, for the moment, that no such result can be looked for.

There is an apprehension expressed in some quarters that the effects of dear money, and the other causes which have latterly influenced railway expenditure will in all probability exercise greater weight in the current, than in the past, six months. Although the weekly returns of receipts are extremely encouraging and have presented a progressive augmentation, the impending depression of trade, with the consequences almost certain to arise during a period of war, may eventually interfere with traffic and thus diminish income; while, on the other hand, few or any of the circumstances affecting outlay stand a chance of general reduction. It will be necessary to bear this in mind in estimating the prospects of the next half-yearly dividends.

With regard to traffic and other arrangements between the great companies, some effective alteration will, it is anticipated, shortly ensue. The London and North Western and Great Western boards have not yet arrived at a perfect arrangement of differences, but the first step towards an amicable adjustment has been taken by a mutual pledge to

abstain in future from Parliamentary opposition. The York, Newcastle and Berwick, York and North Midland, and Leeds Northern appear content with the working of their traffic agreements; but the Caledonian and Edinburgh and Glasgow seem prepared, if necessary, to sunder their relations at a very short notice.

The Scotch lines generally, though improving, do not move forward with the same steady growth as the English and Irish. The latter, now they are approaching completion, will survive the numerous disadvantages under which they were commenced, and as investments at low prices have already turned out remunerative.

The internal trade of the United Kingdom, had it not been interrupted by the disadvantageous issue of the Eastern question, was sufficiently prosperous to have coped with and surmounted the temporary difficulties attending a deficient harvest and a disturbed money market; but the subsequent declaration of hostilities between the Western Powers and Russia has frustrated the most sanguine expectations of an immediate change for the better.

RAILWAY ACTS.

The return of the railway acts passed in the session of 1853 shows the length of line authorised to be 972 miles; the length of line abandoned, 169 miles; the amount of new capital stock, £11,358,740; and the borrowing powers to be £4,158,861. The acts, in number 106, may be classed as follows:—

Incorporation of companies	35
Extension of time and amendment of acts	7
Deviations, extensions, and other works, for which no new capital is required (two of these acts authorise the creation of annuities or debenture stocks)	24
Branches, &c., for which new capital is required (four of these acts authorise the creation of annuities or debenture stocks)	23
Reduction of capital	2
Additional capital for works previously authorised (three of these acts authorise the creation of annuities or debenture stocks)	8
Lease, purchase, or amalgamation	3
Annuities or debenture stocks	4
Total	106
Increase of mileage occasioned by the above acts, 803 miles 5 chains.	
Increase of capital occasioned by the above acts	
acts	£11,010,440 11 2
Ditto of loan, ditto	1,783,455 8 10
Total actual increase	£12,793,896 0 0

RAILWAY CAPITAL.

A parliamentary return, just issued, in reference to the amount of capital and loan authorised to be raised by our railway companies by acts passed previous to and in 1852, and the amount of share capital

actually paid up on the 31st December, 1853, exhibits the following results :—Capital and loans previous to 31st December, 1852, amounted to, by shares, £266,663,258 7s. 4d.; by loans, £88,727,802 12s. 2d. In 1852, by shares, £3,627,500; by loans, £706,334. The total capital and loans authorised previous to 31st December, 1852, was, therefore, £356,610,456 19s. 6d. The amount of share capital actually paid up on the 31st December, 1852, was as follows, viz. : Not receiving nor entitled to receive any preferential dividend or rate of interest, £161,400,256 13s. 8d; receiving or entitled to receive preferential dividend or interest, £38,700,755 1s. Total debt, divided according to the rate of interest, payable thereon on 31st December, 1852, £64,064,668 8s. 6d. Total amount, which at the end of 1852 had been raised by shares and loans, £264,165,680 3s. 2d.; and the total amount which at the end of 1852 they retained power to raise, either by existing or by new shares, or by loans, was £92,624,978 16s. 4d.

Capital and loan authorised to December, 1851 ..	£361,428,448
Ditto authorised by acts passed in 1852	4,333,834
Ditto by increase in several returns	1,792,387
	£367,554,669
Deduct amount of reductions made in the above by acts passed in 1852, &c., by warrants for the abandonment of lines, &c.	10,944,213
Total to December, 1852	356,610,456
Total to December, 1851	361,428,448
Decrease in 1852	£4,817,992
Amount raised by shares and on loan to December, 1852	264,165,680
Ditto to December, 1851	£248,240,897
Less expenditure by companies whose undertakings have been abandoned	474,210
	247,766,687
Amount raised during 1852, ...	£16,398,993
Amount raised at the end of 1852	£264,165,680
Amount which at the end of 1852 the companies retained power to raise	92,624,978
Total	£356,790,658
Total capital authorised to December, 1852	356,610,456
Difference raised by companies in excess of their parliamentary powers	£180,202

Abstract of Railway Meetings.

ABERDEEN.

THE half-yearly meeting of this company was held at Radley's Hotel, Bridge Street, Blackfriars, on Wednesday, March 15th, Lord James Hay in the chair. There was no dividend declared.

The report stated that the receipts for the half-year, ending the 31st of January, amounted to 46,488*l.*, and the expenses to 25,494*l.*, leaving a balance of 20,994*l.* Out of this sum is deducted 11,714*l.*, for interest on debentures, &c., and 6,046*l.* for rent of Arbroath and Forfar Railway, leaving 3,232*l.* to meet the interest on the 6 per cent. preference shares; amounting to 8,106*l.*, and on the 7 per cent. preference shares to 4,826*l.*; together, 12,932*l.* The arrears of interest and balance against the revenue account amount to 102,412*l.* The directors state that if they had possessed the necessary rolling stock the revenue might have been considerably augmented, and the coal traffic trebled. They press upon the shareholders the necessity of making a united effort to liquidate the debts of the company. The expenditure on capital account amounts to 1,729,371*l.*

AMBERGATE, NOTTINGHAM, AND BOSTON, AND EASTERN JUNCTION.

THE sixteenth half-yearly general meeting was held at the London Tavern, on Tuesday, February 28th, Mr. Joseph Wyles in the chair, when a dividend at the rate of 2½ per cent. per annum was declared.

The report stated that the traffic returns for the past half-year showed an increase of 8,412*l.* 18*s.* 5*d.*, but the directors were unable to recommend an increased dividend in consequence of the heavy expenditure. The revenue account shows a balance of 11,468*l.* 17*s.* 7*d.* Out of this the directors recommend a dividend of 2½ per cent. per annum, free of income tax, which will absorb 9,044*l.* 6*s.* 4*d.*; the balance they reserve to pay for the station at Nottingham, and other charges.

BIRKENHEAD, LANCASHIRE, AND CHESHIRE JUNCTION.

THE half-yearly meeting of this company was held on Saturday, February 25th, at Birkenhead, Mr. Alderman Bancroft presided.

The report stated that the net amount available for dividend is 24,969*l.* 2*s.* 2*d.*, and will give to the 31*l.* share, 7*s.*; 27*l.* 10*s.* share, 6*s.* 10½*d.*; 29*l.* share, 5*s.* 0½*d.*; being at the rate of 2½ per cent. per annum, payable on the 6th March. The report was agreed to.

BLYTHE AND TYNE.

THE first annual general meeting of this newly incorporated company was held in the railway office, Newcastle-on-Tyne, on Monday, February 27th, Mr. John Carr in the chair. A dividend of 2*l.* per share was declared.

The following is an abstract of the report presented by the directors:—The revenue of the past year is 34,611*l.* 15*s.* 9*d.*, and, as compared with that of 1851, which was published by the late proprietors, shows an increase of 6,323*l.* 13*s.* 9*d.*, and the expenditure of the year amounts to 21,557*l.* 11*s.* 9*d.*, leaving the sum of 13,054*l.* 4*s.* applicable to dividend. This sum, after paying 2*l.* 10*s.* per share upon the preference shares, which comprise one-third of the whole number, will enable the company to pay 2*l.* per share upon the ordinary share capital, and the directors recommend the above dividend to be paid accordingly.

BRISTOL AND EXETER.

THE half-yearly meeting of this company was held at Bristol, on Wednesday, February 22nd, the chairman of the company, Mr. J. W. Buller presiding, when a dividend at the rate of $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. per annum was declared.

The report stated that the gross traffic receipts upon the Bristol and Exeter Railway, from the 1st July to the 31st of December, 1853 (including the sum of 2,168*l.* 3*s.* received on the Exeter and Crediton Railway, and due to the Bristol and Exeter Railway Company), amount to the sum of 145,636*l.* 14*s.* 9*d.*, which is 15,815*l.* 12*s.* 4*d.* more than in the corresponding half of the year 1852, although the mail service was then estimated at 937*l.* 4*s.* 10*d.* more than, under the new award, is receivable for the last half-year. The working expenses during the last half-year (including those of the Exeter and Crediton Railway and part of those of the Yeovil branch from the 1st of October), amount to 61,914*l.* 13*s.* 11*d.*, or 42·51 per cent. of the gross receipts, and 552*l.* 16*s.* 1*d.* per mile on 112 miles of railway. While, therefore, the gross receipts have increased upwards of 15,000*l.*, the proportion of working expenses has diminished. The disposable balance of the revenue account, including 1,185*l.* 17*s.* 2*d.*, brought over from the former half-year, is 52,112*l.* 2*s.* 1*d.*, and the directors recommended a dividend of $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. per annum, or $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. for the half-year on the 2,000,000*l.* of consolidated stock. This would leave a surplus of 7,112*l.* 2*s.* 1*d.* to be carried forward in aid of the next half-year.

CALEDONIAN.

THE half-yearly meeting of this company was held at Glasgow, on Wednesday, March 22nd, Mr. W. Johnston in the chair. A dividend at the rate of 3 per cent. per annum was declared.

The report stated the accounts now presented to the shareholders show a net balance (including 990*l.* 0*s.* 1*d.* carried over from the last half-year) of 63,794*l.* 3*s.* 10½*d.*, which, after providing for the preferential dividend, 15,648*l.* 15*s.* 7*d.*, leaves 48,145*l.* 8*s.* 3½*d.*; enabling the directors to recommend a dividend on the ordinary stock at the rate of 3 per cent. per annum, 45,737*l.* 7*s.* 8*d.*; leaving a surplus of 2,408*l.* 0*s.* 7½*d.*, which, added to the old balance of 11,445*l.* 14*s.* 4*d.*, makes a reserved fund of 13,853*l.* 14*s.* 11½*d.*

CHESTER AND HOLYHEAD.

THE half-yearly general meeting of this company was held at the Euston Station, on Saturday, March 18th, Mr. S. M. Peto, M.P., in the chair. A dividend of 8*s.* 3*d.* per share was agreed to.

The report stated that the receipts have increased in the rate of 24·41 per cent., whilst the expenses are relatively less in the ratio of 4·53 per cent. as compared with the corresponding period of 1862. The result of the half-year's working shows an available balance to the credit of the revenue, after payment of debenture interest, of 30,341*l.* 17*s.* 9*d.*; from which the directors propose a dividend for the past half-year of 8*s.* 3*d.* per share on the first preference shares, leaving a balance of 13,016*l.* 17*s.* 9*d.* From this balance they recommend the sum of 8,500*l.* to be placed to the credit of a renewal fund, to meet the outlay which will be required on the steam vessels during this, and the next year, leaving 4,516*l.* 17*s.* 9*d.* to be carried to the current half-year. The chairman said that the liabilities of the company amounted to 361,000*l.*, and the assets to 370,000*l.* These liabilities consisted of a loan from the London and North Western Company of 100,000*l.*, and they also borrowed 100,000*l.* of the public. The arrears of interest on the first preference amounted to 18*s.* 8*d.* a share, in addition, of course, to the 8*s.* 3*d.* a share, which was now declared for current interest. The total amount of the second preference created was 525,000*l.*; of this stock was issued 251,000*l.*, leaving unissued 274,000*l.* None of the stock had ever been issued at a discount. The second preference did not come into the receipt of interest until the 31st of March next.

DUBLIN AND BELFAST JUNCTION.

THE half-yearly meeting of the shareholders of this company was held in Dublin, on Wednesday, February 8, Mr. Barlow in the chair. A dividend of 1*l.* 2*s.* 6*d.* per share was declared.

From the accounts of receipts and expenditure for the half-year ended 31st December, 1853, it appeared that the receipts for passengers and merchandise have exceeded those of the corresponding half-year in 1852 by 7,288*l.*, and those of the half-year ended 30th June, 1853, by 7,876*l.* The net balance to the credit of revenue for the past half-year is 25,513*l.* 5*s.* 4*d.*, which, when added to the balance from the previous half-year, 2,345*l.* 11*s.* 2*d.*, makes the sum of 27,758*l.* 16*s.* 6*d.* available for dividend. The directors, therefore, recommended that a dividend of 1*l.* 2*s.* 6*d.* per share (less by income-tax), be paid to the proprietors, being at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum, after which there would remain to be carried to the credit of the current half-year about 8,900

DUBLIN AND DROGHEDA.

THE half-yearly meeting of the shareholders of this company was held on Thursday, March 2nd, at the terminus, Amiens-street, Mr. James W. Murland in the chair. A dividend of 33*s.* 9*d.* on the old, and 11*s.* 3*d.* on each new share, less income-tax, was agreed to.

The report stated that the traffic receipts for the last half-year amount to 40,505*l.* 7*s.* 8*d.*, and exceed by 10,157*l.* 8*s.* 10*d.* those of any former half-year. The net profits of the half-year, after deducting working expenses and interest, amount to 15,555*l.* 12*s.* 6*d.*, out of which the directors recommend that a dividend of 33*s.* 9*d.* for each old share, and 11*s.* 3*d.* for each new share be made, being at the rate of 4½ per cent. per annum. This dividend will amount to 12,833*l.* 8*s.* 9*d.*, and will leave a balance of 2,722*l.* 3*s.* 9*d.* to be carried to the reserve and reproductive fund.

DUNDALK AND ENNISKILLEN.

THE half-yearly meeting of this company was held in Dundalk, on Saturday, February 25th, the Honourable Captain Jocelyn in the chair. A dividend of 6*s.* per share was declared.

The directors' report showed an increase of the traffic, as compared with the corresponding half-year of 1852, to the amount of 800*l.*, part of which was attributable to the opening of the Great Exhibition in Dublin. The gross receipts for the half-year amount to 5,313*l.*; deducting working expenses, interest, &c., there will remain a sum of 2,194*l.* available for dividend, out of which it is proposed to pay 6*s.*, free of income-tax, on each paid-up share of the company, which will leave a sum of 430*l.* to be carried to reserved fund.

EAST ANGLIAN.

THE half-yearly meeting of the shareholders was held on Friday, March 31st, at the London Tavern. Mr. H. Bruce was in the chair.

The report of the directors stated that the traffic for the last half-year amounted to 20,964*l.* 5*s.* 2*d.*, to which should be added 400*l.* as the receipts of four days, for the accounts were required to be closed on the 31st of December last, instead of 4th of January, as formerly. With this addition, there is an excess in the traffic of the last half-year over that which terminated on 4th of January, 1853, of about 1,530*l.* The accumulated balance which has accrued from the traffic of the last and preceding half-years, after providing for the interest on the bonds and class A shares, and the directorial and secretariat expenses, is 8,197*l.* 8*s.*, which is to be carried to the general account to replace the sums which, during the company's embarrassments, were necessarily taken from capital to pay the interest on bonds, law costs, and other expenses properly chargeable to revenue.

EASTERN COUNTIES.

THE half-yearly general meeting of this company took place on Friday, February 24th, at the London Tavern, Mr. Waddington, M.P., in the chair, when a dividend of 7s. per share was declared.

The report states that the directors have the satisfaction to call attention to the increasing development of the traffic, which amounts to 491,875*l.* 3*s.* 9*d.*, from the 4th July to the 31st December, 1853, as compared with 448,769*l.* 1*s.* 1*d.* for the six months ending 4th January, 1853, or an increase of 43,106*l.* 2*s.* 8*d.* If the accounts had been carried out upon the same principle as in former half-years, there would have been an additional four days' receipts to be added, amounting to about 9,000*l.*, but the Board of Trade requiring the periodical returns, ordered by the House of Commons, to be made out up to the 31st December in each year, your directors have considered it desirable to establish the principle of making out the half-yearly accounts for the future as terminating on the 30th June and 31st December. On the other hand, the expenses are calculated for the full period of six months, and amount to 203,761*l.* 12*s.* 5*d.*, being 25,617*l.* 6*s.* 11*d.* in excess of the half-year ending 4th January, 1853. This mainly arises from the increased price of all descriptions of materials required in working the traffic and the expenses incident thereto, partly to the severe competition in which this company, during the past half-year, was engaged with the Eastern Union Company, and partly to the heavy expenses incurred in carrying on the traffic at the Brick Lane terminus in consequence of the circumscribed space for working the goods traffic, which has necessitated the employment of additional manual labour to keep the line clear for passenger trains. Deducting the working expenses, amounting to 203,761*l.* 12*s.* 5*d.*, and the interest upon guaranteed stocks and loans, which is 152,183*l.* 16*s.* 11*d.*, together with 14,976*l.* 10*s.* 7*d.* payments to other companies from the revenue of 491,875*l.* 3*s.* 9*d.*, there will remain 120,953*l.* 3*s.* 10*d.* as the net profit, to which has to be added 1,339*l.* 5*s.* 9*d.* the balance carried over on the last half-year's accounts, making a total, applicable to dividend, of 122,292*l.* 9*s.* 7*d.*, out of which the directors have declared a dividend of 7*s.* per share, leaving a balance of 2,716*l.* 11*s.* 2*d.* The capital account has been increased 85,438*l.* 7*s.* 1*d.* in the construction of the branch line to connect this company's lines with the North London line, and for additional plant, extended sidings, and other new works. During the half-year, 21 miles of single lines have been fish-jointed, which, with other substantial repairs upon that length, has cost 5,022*l.* 13*s.* 6*d.* This has been defrayed out of the reserve fund set aside for that purpose, which reserve now amounts to 19,945*l.* 11*s.* 2*d.*

EASTERN UNION.

THE half-yearly meeting of this company was held on Friday, February 24, at Radley's Hotel, Mr. J. C. Cobbold, M.P., in the chair. There was no dividend declared.

The statement of revenue account for the half-year ending December 31, 1856, exhibits the following charges:—Locomotive, 6,520*l.* 5*s.* 10*d.*; coaching, 7,700*l.* 6*s.* 11*d.*; merchandise, 13,803*l.* 1*s.* 10*d.*; maintenance of way, 5,047*l.* 10*s.* 5*d.*; works and buildings, 1,151*l.* 18*s.* 5*d.*; renewals, 1,407*l.* 0*s.* 11*d.*; storekeepers' and clerks' salaries, 332*l.* 4*s.* 11*d.*; electric telegraph, 48*l.* 2*s.* 8*d.*; general expenses, 4,291*l.* 11*s.* 10*d.*; rates and taxes and government duty, 2,432*l.* 0*s.* 6*d.*.—Total expenditure, 42,734*l.* 4*s.* 3*d.*.—The earnings are—Passengers, 35,914*l.* 0*s.* 2½*d.*; mails, 731*l.* 15*s.*; goods and minerals, 27,538*l.* 3*s.* 10*d.*; parcels and cattle, 4,288*l.* 9*s.* 3*d.*; cartage, rents, &c., 2,317*l.* 8*s.* 7*d.* Total earnings, 70,789*l.* 16*s.* 10½*d.* The excess of earnings is thus 28,055*l.* 12*s.* 7½*d.* The half-year's profit is less by 1,378*l.* 2*s.* 3½*d.* than the sum of the half-year's charges in respect of debenture interest, debts, &c., and the general profit account shows an arrear of 18,324*l.* 13*s.* 0½*d.*

EDINBURGH, PERTH, AND DUNDEE.

THE half-yearly general meeting of the shareholders of this company was held on Thursday, March 9, at Edinburgh, Mr. Balfour in the chair. Dividends were declared in accordance with the directors' report, which was as follows:—

The larger portion of the debentures for the payment of the ordinary contract debts had now been issued, amounting to about 245,000*l.*; thus falling short of the Parliamentary powers by the sum of 35,000*l.* The total receipts for the half-year had been 73,751*l.* 1*s.* 10*d.*; the working and other charges were 40,310*l.* 9*s.* 2*d.*; leaving a balance of 33,440*l.* 12*s.* 8*d.*, which was divisible as follows:—Interest on first-class debentures, 16,704*l.* 19*s.* 9*d.*; interest on debt to bank and other creditors, 9,962*l.* 14*s.* 2*d.*; dividend on Granton preference stock, 2,134*l.* 11*s.* 6*d.*; dividend on 5*l.* preference stock, 4,452*l.* 6*s.* 10*d.*; leaving a surplus of 256*l.* 6*s.* 6*d.* The increase on the last half-year's revenue, as compared with that of the corresponding half-year, was 6,913*l.* 13*s.* 9*d.*; the increase of the expenditure on the same period being 1,179*l.* 19*s.* Exclusive of the extraordinary expenditure from the special fund in the renewal and repair of the rolling stock, the sum of 4,467*l.* 5*s.* 10*d.* had been expended during the half-year in general repairs, which had been charged to revenue.

GLoucester and DEAN FOREST.

THE half-yearly meeting of this company was held at Gloucester, on Saturday, February 11, Mr. S. Baker in the chair, when a dividend of 4 per cent. was declared.

The report stated that after paying a dividend on the half-year ending the 31st of December last at the rate of 4 per cent. per annum, free of income-tax, there would be 397*l.* left towards meeting the debenture interest, which would fall due on the 1st of April. The works on the Hereford, Ross, and Gloucester Railway were progressing in a very satisfactory manner, and on their completion the rent receivable from the Great Western Company would be raised from 11,430*l.* to 13,970*l.* per annum, or equivalent to 5½ per cent. per annum on the share capital of this company. The accounts showed the receipts on capital to be 254,000*l.*, all of which was expended except a small balance of 71*l.* Of the payments, 116,069*l.* had been paid to contractors, 72,286*l.* for land and compensation, and 16,492*l.* for parliamentary and law expenses.

GREAT NORTHERN.

THE half-yearly meeting of this company was held on Saturday, February 25, at the London Tavern, Mr. E. Denison, M.P., in the chair, when resolutions were passed declaring dividends on the 5 per cent. and 4½ per cent. shares; and at the rate of 4*l.* 8*s.* 3*d.* per cent. per annum on the ordinary shares; 3½ per cent. on the B stock, and 1*l.* 8*s.* 3*d.* per cent. on the A stock.

The report states that the net revenue account, after the payment of all fixed charges, rents, interest, working expenses, and including the dividend on the several classes of preference shares or stock, shows a balance of 118,141*l.* available for dividend on the original stock. The directors recommend a dividend for the half-year at the rate of 2½ per cent. on the original; 3½ per cent. on the B, and 1½ per cent. on the A stock; which together will absorb 114,200*l.*, and leave a balance of 3,940*l.* The gross receipts of the first half of 1853 were 381,577*l.*, and the working charges 174,879*l.*, or 45.83 per cent., while the receipts of the last half-year amounted to 487,322*l.* the working charges upon which were 214,083*l.*, or 43.93 per cent. This arises from the per centage being spread over a much larger amount of receipts from traffic. The directors propose for the adoption of the proprietors the building of a church and school at Doncaster for the use of the company's servants and their families, in all 2,509 persons, the outlay being estimated at 8,000*l.*, or 320*l.* per annum at 4 per cent., 200*l.* for clergyman and house, 150*l.* for schoolmaster, mistress, &c., 80*l.* for books, assistants, &c.—together 700*l.* per annum. With respect to hospitals and other similar charities, the directors suggest that they be authorised to subscribe 100*l.* a-year. The capital account shows that 10,348,434*l.* had been received, including 2,647,570*l.* on loan, and 10,195,462*l.* expended, leaving a balance of 152,971*l.*, including amount invested in South Yorkshire Railway shares. The revenue account for the half-year ending 31st December shows that 487,322*l.* had been received, and 214,083*l.* expended, leaving a balance of 273,238*l.*

out of which is deducted 58,296*l.* for interest of mortgage debt; 1,515*l.* Louth navigation; 5,830*l.* Witham navigation; 4,785*l.* Foss Dyke navigation; 8,000*l.* Royston and Hitchin guarantee; 18,415*l.* East Lincolnshire rent, &c.; and dividends on preference stock, 67,719*l.*; leaving a balance of 118,141*l.* for ordinary dividends.

GREAT WESTERN.

THE half-yearly meeting of this company took place on Wednesday, February 22nd, at the Paddington station, Mr. C. Russell in the chair. A dividend at the rate of 4 per cent. per annum for the half-year was agreed to.

The general statement of receipts and payments to the 31st of December last shows 11,633,273*l.* had been received on stock and shares, including 1,875,457*l.* redeemable 4½ per cent. stock, 129,000*l.* redeemable 4 per cent. stock, and 1,407,104*l.* irredeemable 4 per cent. stock. The amount received on debentures, loans, mortgages, loan notes, and mortgage of shares was 5,974,555*l.*; and in respect of the Birmingham and Dudley lines, 1,378,405*l.*; making the total receipts on capital account, 18,986,234*l.* The expenditure on account of capital, in respect of the main line, Oxford branch, Berks and Hants extension, and other lines, and for locomotive stock, was 10,669,246*l.*; in respect of the Oxford and Rugby, 1,179,410*l.*; Oxford and Birmingham, 2,960,615*l.*, including 1,462,552*l.* paid for shares; Wilts, Somerset, and Weymouth, 270,859*l.*; and in respect of the Birmingham, Wolverhampton, and Dudley Railway, 1,286,825*l.* The subscriptions and disbursements in respect of the South Devon, Gloucester and Dean Forest, South Wales, Wilts, Somerset and Weymouth, Oxford, Worcester and Wolverhampton, and other lines; amounted to 1,740,283*l.* The outlay on the new rolling stock has been 274,761*l.*, on the new station at Paddington, 241,058*l.*; and on the Paddington Hotel, 45,122*l.* making the total expenditure 18,736,000*l.*, and leaving a balance of 250,234*l.* to the credit of capital. The revenue account for the half-year ending the 31st of December last, shows that 620,972*l.* had been received from traffic and other sources, and that 242,362*l.* had been expended, including rates and taxes and government duty, leaving a balance of 378,610*l.* To this sum is added 17,760*l.*, the balance from the last account, 1,000*l.* dividend on Forest of Dean shares, and 605*l.* in respect of dividend on South Devon shares, making a total of 397,975*l.* From this sum is deducted 114,489*l.*, interest paid on loans; 1,333*l.*, previously charged on South Wales subscriptions; 72,532*l.* interest on preference stock, 1,286*l.* rent-charge on Paddington estate, 5,715*l.* rent of Gloucester and Dean Forest Railway, 1,328*l.* interest on Berks and Hants extension shares, 16,482*l.* guaranteed to shareholders of the Wilts, Somerset and Weymouth Railway, and 120*l.* for additions to works on lines opened, amounting together to 213,286*l.*, and leaving a disposable balance of 184,689*l.* Out of this sum it is proposed to deduct 164,725*l.* for a dividend at the rate of 2 per cent. for the half-year on the ordinary stock and shares of the company (8,236,276*l.*), leaving a balance of 19,964*l.*, or about 2,204*l.* more than the amount brought from the last account. From the statement of accounts, it appears that the sum paid as interest on borrowed money averages 3*l.* 16*s.* 7½*d.* per cent. per annum, while that paid by the London and North Western Company averages 3*l.* 19*s.* 2½*d.* per cent. per annum.

HULL AND SELBY.

THE half-yearly meeting of this company was held at Hull, on Saturday, February 11th, Mr. R. Tottie in the chair, when dividends in accordance with the following report were agreed to.

The directors recommended that a dividend be declared of 2*l.* 9*s.* 6*d.* on each of the whole, or 50*l.* shares; of 1*l.* 4*s.* 9*d.* upon each of the half or 25*l.* shares, and of 10*s.* 3½*d.* upon each of the quarter of 12½*l.* 10*s.* shares, to the 31st of December, 1853 (subject in each case to the deduction of income-tax), leaving a surplus of upwards of 400*l.*

IRISH SOUTH EASTERN.

THE half-yearly meeting of this company was held on Thursday, March 30th, at Dublin, Mr. Redmond in the chair, when the dividend declared was in accordance with the following report.

The report stated that the receipts for the half-year ending the 31st of December, amounted to 6,376*l.* (including 4,047*l.* for passengers), and to 5,008*l.* for the corresponding period of the preceding year (including 3,204*l.* for passengers), showing an increase on the whole of 1,368*l.* The profit on the half-year amounted to 2,443*l.*, and enabled the directors to recommend a dividend of 2*s.* per share, clear of income-tax, leaving a balance of 700*l.*

KENDAL AND WINDERMERE.

THE half-yearly meeting of this company was held on Thursday, January 26th, at the company's offices, Longpool, Mr. John Gandy, chairman. A dividend of 5*s.* per share was declared.

The report stated that the directors suggest to the meeting the declaration of a dividend of 5*s.* on each original share of the company, which will leave a balance of 242*l.* 5*s.* 6*d.* to be added to the reserved profits. The receipts for the half-year were 6,603*l.* 10*s.* 11*d.*, and the expenditure 5,276*l.* 17*s.*, leaving a balance in favour of the company of 1,326*l.* 13*s.* 11*d.* From a reference to the secretary's books, it appeared that the half-year's increase was 27,451 miles in 1853, to 19,448 in 1852.

LANCASTER AND CARLISLE.

THE half-yearly meeting of the shareholders in this company was held on Friday, March 3rd, at the Liverpool Station of the London and North Western Company, Lime-street. Mr. E. W. Hasell, chairman of the board of directors, presided. A dividend at the rate of 8½ per cent. on the different classes of shares was declared.

The revenue account showed that the receipts for the past half-year (including balance brought forward) amounted to 166,661*l.* 12*s.* 11*d.*, and the disbursements to 67,808*l.* 7*s.* 6½*d.*, leaving a balance of 98,853*l.* 5*s.* 5*d.* applicable to the payment of interest and dividends, and additions to the renewal fund.

LEEDS NORTHERN.

THE half-yearly ordinary general meeting of the shareholders in this company was held at Leeds, on Thursday, February 23rd, Mr. Thomas Constable, the chairman of the board of directors, presiding. There was no dividend declared.

The report stated, the expenditure under the head of capital has amounted during the half-year to 15,967*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.*, being chiefly on account of stations, station fittings, and balances due on completed contracts. The general result of the united working of the three lines has hitherto proved more favourable than was estimated by your directors in their report of the 21st of October, 1852. This company's proportion of the net earnings for the half-year is 32,652*l.* 6*s.*, to which has to be added the sum of 106*l.* 18*s.*, arising from miscellaneous sources, and the balance of 2,999*l.* 14*s.* 11*d.*, brought forward from last half-year, making together 35,758*l.* 18*s.* 11*d.*; deducting from this the half-yearly interest on loans 19,168*l.* 15*s.* 7*d.*, the balance due on accidental account 3,125*l.*, and the company's separate expenses 1,316*l.* 6*s.*, together 23,610*l.* 1*s.* 7*d.*, there remains a balance of 12,143*l.* 17*s.* 4*d.*, which the directors recommended to be retained in hand, until the result of the application to parliament for the amalgamation and reference bills, as authorised by the shareholders on the 28th of August last, has been ascertained.

LIVERPOOL, CROSBY, AND SOUTHPORT.

THE half-yearly meeting of proprietors was held on Tuesday, February 28th, in the Clarendon Rooms, Liverpool. A dividend at the rate of 3½ per cent. per annum, clear of income-tax, was agreed to.

The statement of accounts for the half-year showed a gross increase of receipts from passengers and goods of 858*l.* 9*s.* 2½*d.*, as compared with the corresponding period of 1852. The sum applicable for dividend was 4,751*l.* 1*s.* 9½*d.*, which would yield a dividend of 2 per cent. for the half-year, subject to income-tax, and leave 271*l.* 1*s.* 9½*d.* to carry forward.

LLANELLY.

THE half-yearly meeting of this company was held on Monday, January 30th, at the London Tavern, Mr. J. Biddulph in the chair. There was no dividend.

The report stated that the receipts for the eight months ending the 31st of December last amounted to 9,061*l.*, the expenses to 6,299*l.*, and the interest on loans to 738*l.*, leaving a net profit of 2,024*l.* The authorised share and loan capital of the company amounts to 330,000*l.* The total amount raised on shares was 199,680*l.*, and on loan 33,020*l.*—total 232,700*l.* The revenue from the new line to Llandilo is estimated at 6,000*l.* a-year, and, after paying working expenses, to yield a sum at least equal to the preference charge.

LONDON AND BLACKWALL.

THE half-yearly meeting of this company was held on Tuesday, February 21st, at the London Tavern, Mr. J. N. Daniell in the chair, when a dividend of 4*s.* per share for the half-year was agreed to.

The report stated that the receipts on revenue account, with the balance of 131*l.* 8*s.* 5*d.* from the previous half-year, amount to 40,263*l.* 13*s.* 2*d.*, and the expenses to 15,662*l.* 17*s.* 1*d.*, leaving a balance of 24,600*l.* 16*s.* 1*d.*; and, deducting from this sum the interest on debentures, 2,652*l.* 11*s.* 11*d.*, there remains 21,948*l.* 4*s.* 2*d.* for dividend, which will admit of the payment of 4*s.* a share, making the dividend for the year 6*s.* 6*d.* a share, as compared with 5*s.* paid in 1852. The comparison of the passenger traffic with the corresponding period of the previous year shows an increase of 350,358 passengers, and 2,921*l.* 2*s.* 4*d.*, of which 148,663 passengers, and 2,121*l.* 19*s.* 9*d.*, have been derived from the local traffic on this line, the remainder from the traffic of the North London Railway. The receipts from the Haydon-square goods traffic have amounted to 1,789*l.* 19*s.* 9*d.* for the half-year; and the tonnage which is at present being carried upon the line is producing at the rate of 4,000*l.* a-year, showing a satisfactory progress in the development of this traffic. In the working expenses there is an addition of 1,256*l.* 5*s.* 5*d.*, as compared with the second half of the year 1852. This is to be explained chiefly by the increased price of articles of consumption, and materials of all kinds.

LONDON, BRIGHTON, AND SOUTH COAST.

THE half-yearly meeting of this company was held on Thursday, January 26th, at the Bridge-house Hotel, London-bridge, Mr. S. Laing, M.P., in the chair. A dividend of 3*l.* 4*s.* per cent. for the half-year was declared.

The report of the directors for the half-year ending the 31st of December last states, that the amount of capital raised to that date is 7,440,742*l.*, consisting of 1,787,512*l.* mortgage debt, 1,037,956*l.* preference capital, and 4,615,634*l.* consolidated stock. The total amount on capital account expended during the past half-year has been 116,618*l.*, of which 70,559*l.* has been expended on the fourth line of rails—the Crystal Palace branch—and on the enlargement of the London-bridge terminus, 15,355*l.* on additional stock to meet the requirements of the goods traffic, and to provide for the Crystal Palace traffic, and 29,085*l.* on sidings and other works rendered necessary for the safety of the public, and for the accommodation of the increasing traffic. Powers will be sought in the ensuing session of Parliament to increase the capital to 7,800,000*l.*, including 150,000*l.* for works rendered necessary by the opening of the Crystal Palace, which amount is virtually guaranteed by a first-charge on the joint earnings of the railway and Crystal Palace Company. The gross revenue for the half-year has been 364,716*l.*, showing an increase of 31,884*l.* over the corresponding half-year of 1852. Of this large increase

18,089*l.* arises from passenger traffic, and 12,631*l.* from goods traffic. The rapid development of traffic on the Croydon and Epsom line consequent on the construction of the Crystal Palace continues very satisfactory. The passenger traffic on this line during the year 1853 has exceeded that of the previous year by upwards of 16,000*l.* The number of miles run by the trains in the half-year ending the 31st of December last was 914,139, and the receipts 353,927*l.*; and for the corresponding period of 1852, 837,178 miles, and the receipts 323,754*l.* The expenses amounted to 148,341*l.* for the half-year ending the 31st of December last, and to 137,400*l.* for the corresponding period of 1852, showing an increase of 10,941*l.* in the expenses, and 30,173*l.* in the receipts. The usual tabular statement in the report shows the gradual increase in the passenger traffic from 1848 to 1853, both inclusive. In 1848 the number of passengers conveyed on the line was 2,485,778, and the receipts 349,977*l.*, while in 1853 the number of passengers was 4,491,561, and the receipts 434,902*l.*, showing an increase in the number of passengers of 2,005,783, or 87 per cent., and in the receipts of 84,925*l.*, or 24.3 per cent. The gross revenue amounted in 1848 to 453,408*l.*; in 1849 to 500,420*l.*; in 1850 to 533,884*l.*; in 1851 to 585,086*l.*; in 1852 to 581,642*l.*; and in 1853 to 636,661*l.* The number of miles run by the trains was respectively 1,119,308 miles, 1,049,094 miles, 1,276,430 miles, 1,620,438 miles, 1,560,193 miles, and 1,740,597 miles. The total expenditure on account of traffic amounted in 1848 to 187,087*l.*; in 1849 to 190,968*l.*; in 1850 to 210,212*l.*; in 1851 to 233,719*l.*; in 1852 to 251,154*l.*; in 1853 to 273,705*l.* The renewals and additions to working stock amounted respectively to 6,161*l.*, 19,927*l.*, 27,721*l.*, 27,001*l.*, 36,631*l.*, and 35,105*l.*, in addition to which 12,095*l.* has been expended in 1853 out of the reserve fund. The preferential charges in 1848 amounted to 104,041*l.*, and the dividend to 3-12*l.* per cent.; in 1849 to 116,556*l.*, and the dividend to 3-17*l.* per cent.; in 1850 to 121,608*l.*, and the dividend to 4-2*l.* per cent.; in 1851 to 119,865*l.*, and the dividend to 4-16*l.* per cent.; in 1852 to 124,950*l.*, and the dividend to 4-4*l.* per cent.; and in 1853 the preference charges amounted to 128,566*l.*, and the dividend to 5 per cent. The amount of accommodation afforded to the public by the passenger trains during the past five years has been increased 33 per cent., the number of passengers by about 80 per cent., and the number of travellers by annual and season tickets has nearly trebled. The increase of receipts from passenger traffic has been about 28 per cent., showing that a great increase of travelling on the line has been coincident with a large reduction in the average rate of charge. During the same period the goods traffic (exclusive of the cartage) has doubled. The increase of ordinary expenditure consequent on this increase of traffic has been 70,898*l.*, or about 38 per cent., of which 41,954*l.* has been in the ordinary expenses, and 28,944*l.* in the amount expended on renewals. Since the commencement of the year 1849, when the whole of the preferential charges were first paid out of revenue, the total increase in the fixed preferential charge for mortgage debt and guaranteed capital has been 10 per cent. The general result is, that the balance remaining, after all charges, has increased by 72,110*l.*, or about 45 per cent., which has raised the dividend from 3-12*l.* to 5*l.* per cent. per annum. The maintenance of the present rate of dividend depends on the maintenance of the present traffic, and on the general rate of wages and the price of materials. The net amount at the credit of the revenue account for the half-year is 216,860*l.*, out of which 36,495*l.* is deducted for interest on mortgage debt, and 27,907*l.* for dividend on preference capital; together, 64,402*l.*; leaving 152,458*l.* From this sum is deducted 2,000*l.* for the benevolent and insurance funds, leaving 150,458*l.*, out of which the directors recommend a dividend of 3*l.* 4*s.* per cent. for the half-year, amounting to 147,700*l.*, leaving a balance of 2,758*l.*, and making a total dividend for the year amount to 5 per cent. To the extent of about 4*s.* per cent. per annum, this dividend, as compared with that of the three preceding years, is due to the resolution adopted at the last meeting, discontinuing the sum of 10,000*l.* annually to the reserve fund. The capital account shows that 7,440,742*l.* had been received, and 7,523,467*l.* expended, leaving a balance against the company of 82,724*l.* The mortgage debt account to the 31st of December last shows that 203,600*l.* was borrowed at 5 per cent., 6,000*l.* at 4½ per cent., 136,727*l.* at 4½ per cent., 34,000*l.* at 4½ per cent., 1,055,485*l.* at 4 per cent., 120,400*l.* at 3½ per cent., and 231,300*l.* at 3½ per cent.; total, 1,787,512*l.* The report of the Provident Society, established among the employés of the company in 1842, states, that during a period of ten years the sum of 5,654*l.* had been paid by the society to the servants

of the company, of which amount 3,153*l.* was for sick allowances, 1,023*l.* medicine and medical attendance, 888*l.* funeral expenses, 206*l.* superannuations, and 328*l.* returned to men who have left the service. The average annual income of the society has latterly been about 800*l.*, and the outgoings about 760*l.* The balance in hand is 1,589*l.*

LONDONDERRY AND ENNISKILLEN.

THE half-yearly meeting of this company was held at Coleman-street-buildings, on Wednesday, March 29, Mr. J. Clay in the chair, when a dividend, in accordance with the recommendation contained in the following report, was agreed to.

The report stated that a bill was now before Parliament for raising 75,000*l.* additional share capital, and adding 25,000*l.* to the borrowing powers of the company. The directors recommend the payment of the usual dividend on the 5 per cent. preference shares, and 2*s.* 6*d.* per share on the 25*l.* shares, leaving 851*l.* in hand. The expenditure on capital account amounted to 543,494*l.* The traffic receipts for the half-year ending 31st of December last amounted to 12,719*l.*, and the expenses to 7,258*l.*, leaving a balance of 5,461*l.*

LONDON AND NORTH WESTERN.

THE half-yearly meeting of this company was held on Wednesday, February 22nd, at the Euston station. The Marquis of Chandos, the newly-elected chairman of the company, presided for the first time. A dividend at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum for the half-year was unanimously agreed to, an amendment by Mr. Hadfield that the dividend be at the rate of 5½ per cent. having been withdrawn.

It appeared, from the half-yearly financial statement of this company, that the total amount of joint-stock capital on which dividend is payable is 25,521,881*l.*, of which 21,317,484*l.* had been received, 147,383*l.* is in course of payment, and there remains a sum of 3,584,724*l.* upon which calls may be made. The capital account to the 31st of December last shows, that 21,317,485*l.* had been received on stock and shares, 869,881*l.* on calls paid in advance, 9,379,163*l.* on debentures, and 896,530*l.* on 3½ per cent. debenture stock; total 31,463,059*l.*; and, upon the whole of this amount, interest and dividend are charged to revenue. The other side of the account shows that 22,906,076*l.* had been expended on land, works, parliamentary, legal, and all incidental charges; 2,404,728*l.* on carrying stock; 287,821*l.* on lands and buildings, yielding rents together 25,963,936*l.*; on 11 lines opened, in which the company have an interest, 4,798,576*l.*; total, 30,762,512*l.*; leaving a balance of 700,547*l.* The amount received during the half-year was 439,666*l.*, of which 315,874*l.* was for calls paid in advance, and 913,351*l.* was expended. The debenture account shows that 1,039,567*l.* was borrowed at 5 per cent.; 277,500*l.*, at 4½ per cent.; 439,980*l.* at 4½ per cent.; 37,350*l.* at 4½ per cent.; 3,119,750*l.*, at 4 per cent.; 1,627,260*l.*, at 3½ per cent.; 2,060,006*l.*, at 3½ per cent.; 537,450*l.*, at 3½ per cent.; and 220,300*l.*, at 3 per cent.—total, 9,379,163*l.* Of this sum 4,580,586*l.* belongs to expenditure on main line and branches, and 4,798,576*l.* had been applied in payment of calls upon shares in, and raised specially for the use of, subsidiary lines connected with the company. The return of working stock shows that there are 653 locomotive engines, 650 tenders, 1 state carriage, 572 1st class mails and composite carriages, 578 2nd class, and 400 3rd class, 26 post-offices and tenders, 283 horse-boxes, 249 carriage-trucks, 236 guards' break and parcel vans, 29 parcel trucks, 9,194 waggons, 232 sheep vans, 20 trolleys, 1,155 crib rails, 5,150 sheets, and 162 horses. Total cost of the working stock charged to capital amounts to 2,404,728*l.*, being at the rate of 2,663*l.* per mile for the 903½ miles of railway worked by the company. The expenditure on capital account from the 1st January, 1850, to the 1st January, 1854, was 2,570,481*l.* The revenue account for the half-year ending the 31st of December last, shows that 1,396,198*l.* had been received for traffic, 10,280*l.* interest on cash balances and calls in arrear, 12,697*l.* rents of lands and buildings, 651*l.* transfer fees, 2,042*l.* Huddersfield Canal traffic, 3,127*l.* profit on the North Union, and 43,307*l.* estimated dividend from the money invested in the Lancaster and Carlisle, Chester and Holyhead, South Staffordshire, Manchester and South Junction, North London, Caledonian, and Scottish Midland; making the total receipts on

revenue account for the half-year, 1,468,304*l.* The working expenses, including 24,229*l.* for rates and taxes, and 26,920*l.* for Government duty, amounted to 554,238*l.*; the interest on loans amounted to 186,123*l.*; chief rents, to 4,888*l.*; presented to General Anson, as chairman, 1,050*l.*; expenses of Peterborough joint station, 5,670*l.*; parliamentary and legal proceedings, 25,003*l.*; Preston and Wyre deficiency, 5,000*l.*; loss on Buckinghamshire guarantee, 12,882*l.*; Shropshire Union deficiency, 15,987*l.*; proportion of guaranteed tolls to North and South Western Junction, 1,125*l.*; deficiency on Manchester and Matlock lease, 1,152*l.*; on Liverpool and Leeds Canal lease, 1,009*l.*; on Stour Valley dividend, 5,509*l.*, leaving a balance of 645,369*l.* From this is deducted 42,636*l.* for renewal of rails, leaving 602,732*l.* To this sum is added 29,302*l.*, the balance from the last account, making the disposable balance 632,035*l.* The proposed dividend at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum for the half-year, amounts to 546,004*l.*, leaving a balance of 86,031*l.* to be carried forward to the next account. The dividend on the L. and B. 20*l.* shares amounts to 6*s.* per share, on the M. and B. 10*l.* shares to 6*d.* per share, and on the 12*l.* 10*s.* shares (2*l.* 10*s.* paid), 1*s.* 2*d.* per share.

LONDON AND SOUTH WESTERN.

THE half-yearly meeting of this company was held at Frampton's Assembly Rooms, York-road, on Thursday, February 16, Mr. William Chaplin, M.P., in the chair, when a dividend at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum was agreed to.

The report stated that the net revenue for the six months ending the 31st of December last, after deducting interest on loans and all other preferential charges, amounts to 172,970*l.*, which, added to 1,495*l.*, the balance from the 30th of June, makes the balance available for dividend 174,465*l.* From this sum the directors recommend a dividend for the half-year at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum, amounting on 6,761,264*l.* to 169,031*l.*, and leaving a balance of 5,433*l.* The increase in the gross revenue for the past half-year over the corresponding period of 1852 amounted to 53,295*l.*, of which 34,733*l.* was from passenger traffic, and 15,936*l.* from goods. The increase in the working expenses was 23,214*l.*, and in the miles run 141,835, leaving the net increase in the receipts 30,069*l.* over the corresponding period of 1852. The directors consider it desirable to increase the carriage stock, and they have therefore ordered 20 first-class and 20 third-class carriages to be built immediately. They have also ordered six engines, applicable for goods trains, to be constructed and added to the stock. This step has become absolutely necessary in consequence of the increased mileage of the goods traffic, being an increase of nearly 70 per cent. since the last goods engines were built. The increased outlay on the carrying stock will render it necessary to reconsider the arrangements made in February, 1852, when it was supposed that the amount required for additional plant would not exceed 50,000*l.* It was then resolved to defray such expense out of revenue, by successive instalments spread over a limited period of five years, and that a reserved account should be opened for that purpose. In pursuance of this resolution 10,000*l.* has been yearly so charged against revenue. But the additions from time to time made and now making to the plant in excess of the amount of 50,000*l.*, estimated as the probable sum required, render it now necessary that the period of five years should be extended. The board therefore propose to spread this cost of plant over a longer period, at the same half-yearly charge of 5,000*l.* With regard to the charges on revenue the usual amount of 5,000*l.* is charged this half-year on account of the sum standing to debit of reserved plant account, and 1,510*l.* for extensions of stations, sidings, &c.; and also a sum of 3,017*l.* was written off in respect of a deficiency in the coke department, which had been accumulating for many years. The total stock of engines is 122, of which 104 are in good working order. The capital account shows that 8,744,535*l.* had been received, and 8,769,495*l.* expended, leaving a balance against the company of 24,960*l.* The revenue account for the half-year ending December 31 last showed that 438,290 had been received, and 158,215*l.*, or 41·61 per cent. expended, including 20,000*l.* for Government duty, rates, and taxes; leaving the net revenue from the line 229,075*l.* Out of this is deducted 46,385*l.* for interest on loans and preference shares, 5,000*l.* for plant, 1,510*l.* extension of sidings and stations,

1,626*l.* bad debt account, 3,017*l.* deficiency of coal on final settlement of stock, and 1,331*l.* proportion of guarantee to the North and South Western Junction Railway Company, leaving a balance of 174,465*l.* available for the ordinary dividend.

MANCHESTER, BUNTON, MATLOCK, AND MIDLANDS JUNCTION.

THE half-yearly meeting of this company was held on Thursday, 2nd March, at Derby, the Hon. G. H. Cavendish, M.P., in the chair. A dividend of 1*s.* 4*d.* per share on the half-year was agreed to.

The report stated that the capital account shows an expenditure, since the last meeting, of 1,062 11*s.* 11*d.* on account of repairs and additional accommodation works executed by the company, under the terms of the lease; and there are further liabilities of a similar character yet to be discharged. The half-year's rent, amounting to 5,266*l.* 5*s.*, has been received from the leases, out of which the directors propose the usual half-yearly dividend of 1*s.* 4*d.* per share.

MIDLAND.

THE half-yearly general meeting of this company was held at Derby, on Friday, February 24th, Mr. Ellis, the chairman of the board of directors, presided, when the dividends declared were as follows:—A dividend, less income-tax, of 1*l.* 12*s.* 6*d.* upon each 100*l.* Midland consolidated stock, 18*s.* 9*d.* upon each 100*l.* Birmingham and Derby consolidated stock, 3*l.* upon each 100*l.* consolidated preferential stock, 1*l.* 10*s.* upon each Erewash Valley share, 2*s.* 3*d.* per share upon each 16*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.* share, being after the rate of 4½ per cent. per annum upon 5*l.* per share paid up.

The directors, in their report, say it appears from the statement of the expenditure on capital of this company, that it amounted, on the 31st of December last, to 18,524,620*l.*, and the estimated liabilities and further outlay to 887,145*l.*, making the total probable outlay (including 900,000*l.* for the construction of the Leicester and Hitchin line, and 52,000*l.* for rolling stock) 19,411,765*l.*, leaving an estimated surplus of 1,347,893*l.*, the amount authorised to be raised on shares being 16,131,472*l.*, and on loans, 4,628,186*l.*; together, 20,759,658*l.* The debenture account shows that 3,802,295*l.* was raised on loan, of which 375,840*l.* was borrowed at 5 per cent., 30,000*l.* at 4½ per cent., 390,000*l.* at 4½ per cent., 76,300*l.* at 4½ per cent., 1,076,897*l.* at 4 per cent., 419,745*l.* at 3½, 1,307,526*l.* at 3½ per cent., 92,220*l.* at 3½ per cent., and 33,180*l.* at 3 per cent. The renewal of permanent way account shows a balance against it of 56,932*l.* The expenditure on that account during the half-year amounted to 44,866*l.*, and the sum set aside from revenue for that purpose to 10,000*l.*, showing an excess in the half-year under that head of 34,866*l.* The cost of the working stock is 1,993,903*l.*, or at the rate of 3,456*l.* per mile of railway. The revenue account for the half-year ending the 31st of December last, shows that 732,725*l.* had been received, and 346,833*l.* expended; the interest on loans, 78,724*l.*; dividends on guaranteed stock, 104,589*l.*; deficiency on the Matlock traffic, 1,331*l.*; leaving a balance of 202,825*l.*, out of which it is proposed to declare a dividend at the rate of 3½ per cent. per annum for the half-year, amounting to 148,359*l.* on the consolidated stock, to 8,690*l.* on the 4½ per cent. stock, to 9,173*l.* or 1*l.* 17*s.* 6*d.* per cent. per annum on the Birmingham and Derby stock, and to 5,100*l.* on the 6 per cent. stock,—total, 171,323*l.*; leaving a balance of 31,502*l.* The balance brought forward from the last account amounted to 2,034*l.*

MIDLAND GREAT WESTERN.

THE half-yearly meeting of this company was held on Tuesday, February 7, in Dublin, Mr. G. A. Boyd in the chair, when a dividend at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum was declared.

The report shows that a net profit has been realised amounting to 26,231*l.*, which, with last year's surplus of 6,445*l.*, leaves available for dividend 32,676*l.*, which justifies the directors in recommending that a dividend at the rate of 5 per

cent. per annum, less the income-tax, be made on the paid-up capital of the company. This dividend will absorb a sum of 22,123*l.*, and at the same time will admit of an addition being made to the reserved fund of 3,076*l.*, which will make up the amount to 30,000*l.* This will leave a balance of 7,476*l.* to be carried to the next half-year's accounts.

MONKLANDS.

THE ordinary meeting of this company was held in Glasgow, on Friday, February 24th, Mr. John Bain in the chair, when a dividend of 4 per cent. per annum was adopted.

The report stated that the directors were glad to report a continued increase in the traffic. From a comparison with the receipts of the previous half-year, an increase was shown in every item of traffic, and the gross increase amounted to 3,541*l.* The receipts amounted to 26,760*l.*, and the expenses and interest to 13,036*l.*, leaving a balance of 13,674*l.* The proportion which the working expenses bears to the gross receipts is 38½ per cent. As the net balance at the credit of revenue account exceeds that of the previous half-year by 2,789*l.*, directors propose to raise the dividend on the consolidated stock from 3½ to 4 per cent. per annum. After disposing of the free revenue there will be left at credit of reserve fund 5,475*l.* The total expense of the Bo'ness branch will not exceed 83,000*l.* New shares have been issued with a guaranteed dividend of 4½ per cent. per annum. The interest due upon these shares has been charged to revenue account.

NEWMARKET.

THE half-yearly meeting was held on Monday, February 27th, at the London Tavern, Mr. R. G. C. Fane was in the chair, when the following report was agreed to.

The traffic for the six months, ended January 4th, 1854, as compared with the half-year ended January 4th, 1853, shows an increase of 1,312*l.* 1*s.* 2*d.* This is partly attributable to earnings derived from the carriage of materials for the Bury extension over the Newmarket line, and, against this, must be set increased expenditure to the amount of 1,075*l.* 1*s.* 6*d.* The general account shows a balance, to the credit of revenue, of 4,796*l.* 8*s.* 4*d.*, which includes 317*l.* 5*s.* 10*d.* remaining in hand from the last account. Out of this, the directors recommend that a dividend of 1*l.* 4*s.* on every 100*l.* of the company's stock, equal to 6*s.* per share, be declared, which will amount to 4,200*l.*, and will leave 596*l.* 8*s.* 4*d.* to the credit of the current half-year.

NORFOLK.

THE half-yearly meeting of this company was held on Friday, February 24th, at the office, Guildhall-buildings, Mr. S. M. Peto, M.P., in the chair. The dividend declared was at the rate of 1*l.* 15*s.* per cent. for the half-year.

The report stated that, in accordance with the agreement between the Eastern Counties Company and this company, all accounts between the two companies have been finally adjusted and settled. Under the new agreement with the Eastern Counties and Eastern Union companies, the Norfolk Company will henceforth, and as from the 31st of December last, be entitled to one-seventh part of the combined earnings of the three undertakings, after allowances for working and other charges, which have been agreed on. The capital account to the 31st of December, showed that 2,218,509*l.* had been received, and 2,176,130*l.* expended, leaving a balance of 42,379*l.* The consolidated stock of the company amounts to 1,902,195*l.*

NORTH AND SOUTH WESTERN JUNCTION.

THE fifth ordinary half-yearly general meeting of the proprietors in this undertaking was held on Tuesday, February 28th, at the Euston-square Station, Mr. E. Tootal, the chairman of the company, presided. A dividend at the rate of 3½ per cent. per annum was declared.

The report stated that the directors have been enabled to arrange with the London and North Western and South Western Railway Companies the date from which the guaranteed toll for goods takes effect. This has been the subject of much discussion, and has at length been brought to a satisfactory settlement. The balance upon the revenue account, after defraying all expenses and interest on debentures, is 1,810*l.* 14*s.* 11*d.*, which is sufficient to pay a dividend of 3½ per cent. upon the capital of the company to the 31st December, and leave 60*l.* 14*s.* 11*d.* to be carried forward to the current half-year's account.

NORTH BRITISH.

THE half-yearly meeting of this company was held at Edinburgh, on Wednesday, March 22nd, Mr. J. M. Balfour in the chair. Dividends were declared on the Nos. 1 and 2 preference stock, at the rate of 6 per cent. and 5 per cent. per annum, and at the rate of 15*s.* per cent. per annum on the ordinary stock.

The report says:—It will be satisfactory to the shareholders to notice that the expectations as to increase of revenue which the directors have held out from time to time, have been fully realised, the increase in the various branches of revenue of the half-year now closed being 16,877*l.*, or at the rate of 16 per cent. over the corresponding period of the previous year; and it is important to know that this increase would have been much greater had the waggons held by the company been more proportionate to the demand. On the other hand, the disbursements in the locomotive, passenger and goods departments, and on the line and stations, as well as the general expenses, show an increase on the half-year, amounting in the aggregate to 7,570*l.* 3*s.* 6*d.*—the relative expenditure being 51,724*l.* for the half-year ending 31st January, 1853, and 59,295*l.* 2*s.* 3*d.* during the half-year just closed. The proportion of working expenses to revenue, however, is 48.85 for the half-year ending January, 1853, against 48.30 for the half-year ending January last. The extraordinary expenditure for the past half-year amounted to 1,909*l.* 12*s.* 8*d.* A comparative reference to the more detailed statements of the two half-years, will show that the items of wages and materials in the repairs of carriages, repairs of waggons, covers, &c., and maintenance of way, absorb 6,215*l.* 2*s.* 5*d.* of that increase. The extraordinary expenditure consists principally of items incurred in relaying the line near Edinburgh, 643*l.* 15*s.* 5*d.*; and new sidings, 533*l.* 3*s.* 5*d.* In virtue of the powers placed in their hands at last meeting, the directors have issued 1,425*l.* of the new 5*l.* guaranteed stock, and late in January, the stock was offered on tender to the shareholders generally, under a stipulation that none would be issued under par. Tenders were accordingly received to the extent of 96,475*l.*, which tenders have been accepted, the long delayed and pressing engagements of the company not admitting of any other course. It will be remembered that it was intended, with the premium expected to be obtained on the above stock, to refund the arrears of dividend of 31st July, 1852, of the 6 per cent. stock (7,408*l.* 3*s.* 9*d.*) The stock now disposed of has, however, failed to realise its proportion of such arrears, to the extent of 4,010*l.*, and the directors have no alternative but to charge the revenue of this half-year with that amount, allowing the balance to await the result of the disposal of the residue of the stock. The free revenue appears to be 35,070*l.* 19*s.* 10*d.*, and, after deducting some arrears of dividend on preferential shares, 30,224*l.* 14*s.* 11*d.*, from which the directors recommend the payment of a dividend, on the No. 1 preference stock, at the rate of 6 per cent.; on the No. 2 ditto, at the rate of 5 per cent.; and the original stock, at the rate of ¾ per cent., leaving a balance of 2,655*l.* 16*s.* 4*d.* to be carried to the next account. It should be here mentioned that, on the 10th of April next, the dividend payable on the No. 1 preference stock will fall from 6 to 5 per cent., being a saving of 6,000*l.* a-year.

NORTH LONDON.

THE fifteenth half-yearly general meeting of this company took place at the Euston station, on Friday, February 14th, Mr. John Scott in the chair, when a dividend of 2½ per cent. for the half-year was declared.

The report stated that the receipts from passenger traffic during the past half-year exceeded those of the corresponding period in 1852, by 4,407*l.* 6*s.* 4*d.* The receipts

from the goods traffic were 6,723*l.* 6*s.* 6*d.* more than in the same period of 1852, and 4,336*l.* 6*s.* 9*d.* in the excess of the amount taken during the first six months of 1853. The gross receipts for the half-year had been 48,471*l.* 15*s.* 11*d.*; the expenses, including toll, 25,861*l.* 14*s.* 8*d.*; the balance, 22,679*l.* 5*s.* 7*d.*; the net revenue, 17,851*l.* 18*s.* 8*d.* This sum is sufficient to allow a dividend of 2½ per cent. for the half-year, and a surplus of 512*l.* 15*s.* to be carried forward to the current half-year's account, which the directors recommend.

NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE.

THE half-yearly meeting was held at Stoke-upon-Trent, on Wednesday, January 25th; Mr. John Lewis Ricardo, M.P., in the chair. The dividend declared was at the rate of 3 per cent. per annum.

The report states that, in the aggregate amount of railway revenue, 106,706*l.*, is included a sum of 7,496*l.*, as the estimated amount of the Manchester and London traffic for the last half-year, payable by the London and North Western Company, under their agreement with the North Staffordshire Company, of the 13th of April, 1850. The capital account shows that the company was authorised to raise 5,820,000*l.*, of which 5,032 098*l.* has been raised, leaving power to raise 373,628*l.* on shares, and 414,274*l.* on loan. The loan account shows that 1,035,726*l.* had been borrowed, of which 162,050*l.*, was at 5 per cent., 182,126*l.* at 4½ per cent., 128,600*l.* at 4¼ per cent., 284,050*l.* at 4 per cent., 29 000*l.* at 3¾ per cent., 182,000*l.* at 3½ per cent., and 68,500*l.* at 3 per cent. The capital account to December 31st, showed that 3,867,186*l.* had been received, and 3,880,390*l.* expended, leaving a balance of 13,203*l.* against capital. The railway revenue for the half year ending 31st December last, amounted to 102,660*l.*, and the expenses to 48,207*l.*, leaving a balance of 54,453*l.* The canal revenue amounted to 63,598*l.*, and the expenses to 27,727*l.*, leaving a balance of 37,871*l.* The net revenue, including 1,280*l.*, rent of Ashbourne branch, amounts to 93,604*l.* From this sum is deducted 21,625*l.* interest on the debenture debt, and 29,250*l.* dividend on 1,170,000*l.* the canal capital, leaving 42,728*l.* for dividend on 2,826,372*l.* share capital, which, at 3 per cent. per annum, will amount to 42,395*l.* for the half-year, and leave 333*l.*

SCOTTISH CENTRAL.

THE half-yearly general meeting of this company was held at Perth, on Friday, March 17th, Mr. Bruce, of Kennet, in the absence of the Hon. J. C. Dundas, the chairman of the directors, presiding, when a dividend was declared at the rate of 4 per cent. per annum on the consolidated stock of the company.

The report stated that the capital account had been credited with 25,000*l.* of debenture bonds received from the Edinburgh, Perth, and Dundee Railway Company, to account of their share of the cost of the general station at Perth. The balance due to bankers was 43,285*l.*, and the directors preferred that mode of raising money at present to the issue of additional stock. The revenue accounts showed the receipts for the half-year ending January last to be 58,507*l.* 8*s.*, being an increase of 3,995*l.* 18*s.*; while the expenditure had been 22,721*l.* 7*s.* 3*d.* The working expenses, debenture interest, &c. amounted, in the aggregate, to 34,697*l.* 15*s.* 5½*d.*, which left as the surplus profit, 23,539*l.* 12*s.* 6¾*d.* The directors recommended a dividend at the rate of 4 per cent. on the consolidated stock, which would absorb 20,400*l.* leaving a balance to be carried to the reserve fund of 3,139*l.* 12*s.* 6¾*d.*, making, with the balance at last half year, the total reserve or surplus 10,955*l.* 11*s.* 6¾*d.* The interest on the preference stock amounted to 4*s.* 2*d.* per share.

SCOTTISH MIDLAND.

THE half-yearly meeting was held at Perth, on Monday, March 20, G. Stirling, Esq., in the chair. The following report was agreed to:—

The directors congratulate the shareholders on the steady growth and development of the traffic. The works on the Blairgowrie and Kerriemuir branches are being pressed forward. After deducting the working expenses and fixed charges, there will remain a balance of 8,315*l.* on the half-year, out of which the directors recom-

mend that a dividend be declared at the rate of 2½ per cent. per annum, being an increase of a quarter per cent. on the half-year, leaving a balance of 968*l.* A larger traffic could have been carried had there been additional working stock. The amount expended on capital account is 674,187*l.* The traffic for the half-year ending the 31st of January last amounted to 20,005*l.*, and the expenses to 11,493*l.*, leaving a profit on the working of 9,412*l.*

SHEFFIELD, ROTHERHAM, BARNLEY, WAKEFIELD, HUDDERSFIELD, AND GOOLE.

THE half-yearly meeting of this company was held at the Stafford Arms Inn, Wakefield, on Friday, February 17th. The chair was occupied by Mr. W. B. Beaumont. A dividend of 9*s.* per share was adopted.

It appeared from the statement of accounts that the total amount of capital raised up to the 31st of December, 1853, was 268,774*l.* 15*s.* 1*d.* The amount expended during the half-year ended the 31st December in solicitor's and office charges, interest and land purchases, had been 367*l.* 8*s.* 8*d.*, making the total expenditure from the commencement 267,336*l.* 0*s.* 9*d.*, leaving a balance in the bank on the capital account of 1,438*l.* 14*s.* 4*d.* The revenue account showed a disposable balance for dividend of 6,500*l.*

SHREWSBURY AND BIRMINGHAM.

THE half-yearly meeting of this company was held at Shrewsbury, on Wednesday, March 29, Lord Bateman in the chair. There was no dividend declared.

The report stated that the passenger traffic for the half-year ending the 31st of December last amounted to 12,631*l.*, and the goods traffic to 9,517*l.* The sum expended on capital account amounted to 1,461,462*l.* The receipts for the half-year ending the 31st of December amounted to 28,114*l.*, and the working expenses, rates, and taxes, to 27,281*l.*

SHREWSBURY AND CHESTER.

THE half-yearly meeting of this company was held at Chester, on Wednesday, March 29, Mr. John Williams, chairman of the directors, presided. The following report was agreed to:—

The report states that the capital account shows a receipt of 986,332*l.* 14*s.* 6*d.* calls on shares; 15,600*l.* in anticipation of calls; 407,000*l.* on mortgages; and profit on preference shares sold, 2,580*l.* 2*s.* 3*d.*; making a total receipt of 1,411,512*l.* 16*s.* 9*d.* The balance of capital yet to be raised is stated at 159,067*l.* 5*s.* 6*d.* The expenditure has been 1,474,137*l.* 4*s.* 8*d.*, leaving a balance of 62,624*l.* 7*s.* 11*d.* against capital. The revenue account shows a total receipt for the past half-year of 52,156*l.* 3*s.* 1*d.*, and a total expenditure of 28,533*l.* 18*s.* 7*d.*, leaving a balance of 23,622*l.* 4*s.* 6*d.*, and which, with the balance of 207*l.* 7*s.* 1*d.* from last December account, gives a sum of 23,829*l.* 11*s.* 7*d.* applicable to dividend and interest. Against this are mortgage interest, 10,043*l.* 4*s.* 4*d.*; bankers' interest and commission, 839*l.* 8*s.* 3*d.*; interest to T. Brassey and Co., on balance of account, 1,063*l.* 17*s.* 7*d.*; interest on calls in advance, 132*l.* 11*s.*; and railway clearing-house, 49*l.* 9*s.* 2*d.*; together, 12,128*l.* 10*s.* 4*d.*; leaving 11,701*l.* 1*s.* 3*d.* applicable to dividend.

SHREWSBURY AND HEREFORD.

THE ordinary half-yearly meeting of this company was held at the Lion Hotel, Shrewsbury, on Saturday, February 4th, Mr. Ormsby Gore, M.P., in the chair, when a dividend of 3 per cent. per annum, free of income-tax, was agreed to.

The report stated that the total receipts up to the 31st of December, 1853, were 488,067*l.* 1*s.* 4*d.*, and the expenditure 452,892*l.* 16*s.* 7*d.*; there is a balance in cash at banker's of 9,289*l.* 18*s.* 2*d.*

SOUTH EASTERN

THE half-yearly meeting of this company was held on Friday, March 17, at the Bridge-house Hotel, Mr. J. M'Gregor, M.P., in the chair. A dividend of 12s. per 30*l.*, being at the rate of 4 per cent. per annum, was agreed to.

The directors, in their report, state that the receipts for the half-year ending on the 31st January, 1854, including a sum of 9,942*l.* 16*s.* 8*d.*, the net earnings of the steam-packets, and 387*l.* 7*s.* 8*d.*, received of the Brighton Company for toll, have been 465,142*l.* 10*s.* 9*d.*; and the working expenses and renewals 173,340*l.* 4*s.* The sum of 6,215*l.* 15*s.* has been laid aside for renewal of permanent way. The rates, taxes and tolls amount to 18,530*l.* 8*s.* 6*d.*; the government duty to 13,006*l.* 0*s.* 1*d.*; the rents of the Greenwich, Canterbury and Whitstable Railways, and the Angerstein Wharf and Branch, to 24,922*l.* 17*s.* 9*d.*; which sums, in addition to the interest on the mortgage debt, South-Eastern annuities, and guaranteed stock of the company, 87,580*l.* 14*s.* 3*d.*, make a total deduction from the gross earnings of 317,380*l.* 4*s.* 7*d.* The profit and loss account shows a credit of 1,123*l.* 16*s.* 9*d.*, after providing for the last dividend; also a sum of 195*l.* 17*s.* 8*d.* for dividend and interest on Canterbury and Whitstable Railway securities, in the hands of the company; and 4,955*l.* 15*s.* 10*d.*, being the balance on the steam-packet revenue account to the 31st July, 1853; and is debited with the sum of 272*l.* 7*s.* 4*d.* for parliamentary expenses; leaving a balance available for dividend of 153,775*l.* 8*s.* 8*d.* A comparative statement of passenger traffic on different portions of the South Eastern Railway for the half-years ending on the 31st of January, 1852, 1853 and 1854, shows the following results, viz., on the main line and branches, first-class passengers, an increase over 1853 of 19,034; in the second class of 32,098; in the third class of 26,940; and in the receipts of 13,765*l.* 10*s.* 3*d.* On the North Kent line the increase over 1853 has been 55,027 in the first class; in the second class, 18,557; and in the third class, 250,884; and in the receipts, 4,963*l.* 14*s.* 8*d.* On the Greenwich branch, on the first-class passengers the increase over 1853 has been 13,669; the decrease on the second class 6,346; and the increase on third class, 5,287; and the increase in receipts has been 275*l.* 2*s.* 7*d.* The amount received for periodical tickets during the half-year ending 31st January, 1852, was 10,812*l.* 14*s.* 8*d.*; 1853, 13,317*l.* 15*s.* 3*d.*; and 1854, 15,260*l.* 19*s.* 1*d.* A similar statement of the goods traffic, for the same periods, shows the following results:—Main Line and Branches. Increase over 1853, 6,084*l.* 0*s.* 10*d.*; North Kent line, 2,440*l.* 0*s.* 8*d.* The receipts on revenue account for the half-year exceed those for the comparative half-year of 1853 by the sum of 40,595*l.* 2*s.*; and the charges for working expenses, renewals, rates, and government duty for the same period are increased by the sum of 18,438*l.* 14*s.* 1*d.* The balance of profit, 260,265*l.* 18*s.* 2*d.*, is larger for this than the corresponding half of last year by the sum of 22,156*l.* 7*s.* 11*d.* The charges for rents and interest are larger on this occasion by the sum of 13,887*l.* 18*s.* 3*d.* The report proceeds to state that—The purchase of the eight steam-ships from the South Eastern and Continental Steam-packet Company was completed on the 4th of November by the payment of a sum of 99,406*l.*, and interest on that sum from the 1st of February to the 4th of November at 4 per cent. per annum, 3,239*l.* 17*s.* 7*d.* It will be gratifying to the proprietors to observe that the account shows a credit of profit on the working of the steam-ships for the year, of 14,908*l.* 12*s.* 1*d.*, namely, 4,965*l.* 15*s.* 10*d.* for the half-year ending on the 31st July, 1853, and 9,942*l.* 16*s.* 3*d.* for the half-year ending on the 31st January. In the half-year ending January 31, 1853, the number of miles run by engines was 1,425,356, the coke consumed was 16,910 tons; the total cost being 14,608*l.* 9*s.* 8*d.* or 2.4597*d.* per mile. During the last half-year the number of miles run by engines was 1,475,014, the coke consumed was 16,526 tons—being an average of 25.09 lb. per mile, at a cost of 18,342*l.* 15*s.*, or 2.98*d.* per mile. The engines, therefore, ran 49,658 miles more last half-year than in the corresponding half of the preceding year, and consumed 384 tons less coke, at an increased charge of 3,734*l.* 5*s.* 4*d.* The total running of the engines has cost 9.321*d.* per mile, which includes 3.160*d.* per mile of repairs and renewals. The charge in the account for the maintenance of the permanent way during the last half-year is large. It is 23,558*l.* 4*s.* 9*d.* against 18,449*l.* 17*s.* in the corresponding half-year. It will be observed that the mortgage debt of the company, which at the commencement of the half-year amounted to 1,950,325*l.*, at the close of the half-year amounted to 2,363,425*l.*, show-

ing an increase of 413,100*l*. The average charge on this debt is at the rate of 4.2388 per cent. per annum. The sum of 15,377*l*. 8*s*. 8*d*. at the credit of profit and loss, will provide for a dividend of 12*s*. per 30*l*. stock, or at the rate of 4*l*. per cent. per annum, and leave a sum of 5,101*l*. 8*s*. 8*d*., out of which a steam-ship reserve fund may be set aside. Since the commencement of the present half-year the traffic shows considerable improvement.

SOUTH STAFFORDSHIRE

THE half-yearly meeting of this company was held at Lichfield, on Friday, February 24th, Mr. Chawner presided. The usual dividend at the rate of 4 per cent. per annum was adopted.

The report stated that the total amount expended during the last half-year was 13,252*l*., about the half of which sum was for the works at the Dudley and other stations, where the increase of traffic had rendered additional accommodation necessary.

SOUTH WALES.

THE eighteenth half-yearly ordinary meeting of shareholders was held on Tuesday, February 28th, at the Great Western Railway Terminus, Paddington, Mr. C. R. M. Talbot, M.P., in the chair, when a dividend at the rate of 3 per cent. per annum was agreed to.

The report stated that the directors have again the satisfaction to report a considerable increase in the traffic during the past half-year. The receipts on account of revenue on the main line and Forest of Dean branch amount, during that period, to 106,234*l*.—being an increase of upwards of 62 per cent. upon the earnings of the corresponding period of 1852, and showing a receipt of 810*l*. per mile, as compared with 577*l*. per mile during the same period. Of this increase, about 15,000*l*. is derived from passenger traffic and 25,000*l*. from merchandise and minerals. The directors have much satisfaction in being enabled to recommend a dividend on the ordinary share capital of the company (after providing for the dividend due to the holders of the preference shares), at the rate of 3 per cent. per annum.

ST. HELEN'S.

THE half-yearly meeting of this company was held on Friday, February 10th, at St. Helen's, Mr. Greenall, M.P., presiding, when a dividend in accordance with the following report was agreed to.

The increase in the gross traffic receipts for the past six months, as compared with the corresponding period of the preceding year, was 10,029*l*., against which must be placed an increase in the working charges of 4,019*l*., and interest on loans and preference shares 7,615*l*. The revenue for the half-year amounted to 31,720*l*. and the expenses to 11,213*l*., leaving a surplus of 20,506*l*. out of which 7,584*l*. is deducted for interest on loans, leaving a balance out of which 1 per cent. is to be paid on the A stock, 2½ per cent. on the B stock, 3 per cent. on the C stock, and 2½ per cent. on the D stock, leaving a balance of 138*l*.

STOCKTON AND DARLINGTON.

THE half-yearly general meeting of this company was held at Darlington, on Wednesday, February 18th, Mr. Thomas Meynell, jun., in the chair, when dividends in accordance with the report of the directors was agreed to.

The report stated, that the augmentation of income anticipated by the board has been realised. The addition proposed to be made to the capital is 150,000*l*. in shares. After debiting the half-year's revenue for additions and improvements, there is an available balance of 47,137*l*., out of which the preference dividends and rentals of leased lines must be deducted. The directors recommend a dividend on the ordinary share capital of 3½ per cent. for the past half-year, which, upon the paid-up 25*l*. shares, is 17*s*. 6*d*. per share. The receipts on revenue account for the half-year ending the 31st of December last, amounted to 128,075*l*., the expenses

to 68,080*l.*, and interest on loans to 7,857*l.*, leaving a balance of 52,137*l.*, out of which 5,000*l.* is set aside for renewals of way and works. The capital account shows that 1,164,401*l.* had been received, and 1,049,277 expended, leaving a balance of 115,124*l.* The amount received on the preference shares up to the 31st of December last was 294,005*l.*, out of which 196,035*l.* has been applied in paying off loans.

ULSTER.

THE half-yearly meeting of this company was held at Belfast, on Wednesday, February 15, and a dividend of 27*s.* 6*d.* per share, being at the rate of 5½ per cent. per annum, was declared.

The gross earnings of the company during the past half-year amounted to 31,388*l.*, and the working expenses to 9,996*l.*, leaving 21,392*l.* The balance, after deducting interest on loans, amounted to 17,338*l.*, out of which was deducted 14,276*l.* for the dividend, leaving 3,062*l.* to be added to the reserve fund.

VALE OF NEATH.

THE half-yearly meeting of this company took place at Cardiff, on Saturday, February 27th, Lord Villiers presided. A dividend of 3 per cent. per annum was declared.

The report congratulated the proprietors on the completion of the line to Merthyr, so that the length of line earning revenue was now—main line, Neath to Merthyr, 23 miles; Aberdare branch, 3; total, 26. The increase in the passenger traffic in November and December, 1853, over the corresponding months of 1852, was 31,035*l.*, being an increase of 155 per cent. on the first class, 147½ on the second class, and 117 on the third class. There was likewise an increase of 121 per cent. in the merchandise traffic. The directors thought that the diminution of the working expenses (now about 40 per cent.) was satisfactory, taking into consideration the increased price of coke. The half-yearly accounts of this company show that 447,994*l.* has been received on share capital account, and 181,130*l.* on debentures, making a total of 629,124*l.* The revenue account for the half-year ending the 31st of December last showed the receipts for traffic, &c., to have been 16,140*l.*, and the payments to 6,683*l.*, leaving a balance of 9,456*l.* The per centage of cost of traffic for the half-year had been a trifle over 40, while, in the previous half-year, the cost of working had been 46 per cent.

WEST CORNWALL.

THE half-yearly meeting was held at 38, Throgmorton-street, on Tuesday, February 28, Mr. Louis Vigurs in the chair, when a dividend of 2*s.* per share was declared.

The report stated that the receipts for the half-year just concluded exceeded those of the preceding one by 1,200*l.*, and those of the corresponding half-year in 1852 by nearly 3,000*l.* The general revenue account showed a disposable balance of 2,079*l.* 0*s.* 1*d.*, out of which the directors recommended that a dividend of 2*s.* per share be declared, which would leave a sum of 342*l.* 10*s.* 1*d.* to be carried to the next account.

WORCESTER AND HEREFORD.

THE half-yearly meeting of proprietors was held at the Euston-square station, on Tuesday, February 28, Mr. Thomas Heywood in the chair. There was no dividend.

The directors reported that the expenses connected with the unsuccessful application to Parliament in 1851-2, amounting to 16,682*l.* 6*s.* 11*d.*, had been liquidated, and that measures were being taken for the examination and settlement of the subsequent expenses; that the short piece of line at Hereford, connecting the Newport, Abergavenny, and Hereford, and the Shrewsbury and Hereford Railways, had been opened for traffic last month; that a call of 2*l.* per share had been made, upon which 41,304*l.* had been received.

YORK AND NORTH MIDLAND.

THE half-yearly meeting of this company was held on Friday, February 17, at York, Mr. H. S. Thompson in the chair. The dividend declared was at the rate of 3 per cent. per annum for the half-year.

The report of the directors states that the amount of capital on the 31st December, 1853, and entitled to dividend and interest, in addition to rent and interest on bonds of the Hull and Selby Railway, is 5,582,231*l.* 15*s.* 2*d.*; of which, during the half-year, 20,338*l.* was expended. The legal proceedings against Mr. Hudson have at length been brought to a close, he having agreed to pay to the company 51,000*l.*, and the directors having agreed to accept that sum in discharge of the claims preferred against him in the three suits now pending. The whole amount claimed was 71,461*l.* 19*s.* 2*d.*, besides costs, which have been estimated (when taxed) at about 2,000*l.* From this sum of 51,000*l.* will have to be deducted 3,120*l.*, which has been allowed in respect of the Lendal-bridge account, and 630*l.* 16*s.* 9*d.* for copyhold fines receivable by him as the lord of the manor of Weighton, so that the balance to be paid to the company will be 46,613*l.* 15*s.* A mortgage on the Newby-park property is at once to be given for the whole amount, as a guarantee for the due performance of the conditions agreed upon, the principal of which are, that 21,000*l.* shall be paid at Lady-day, on the completion of the sale of his estates at Newby-park; and the balance of 25,613*l.* 15*s.*, secured by a first mortgage on his Whitby property, to be paid off by three equal annual instalments bearing interest at 4 per cent. The sums previously recovered from Mr. Hudson amount to 26,083*l.* 3*s.* 7*d.*, which, added to the 46,613*l.* 15*s.* now agreed to be paid, makes a total of 72,696*l.* 18*s.* 7*d.*; and the directors are strongly of opinion that this arrangement will be generally received by the shareholders as an equitable and satisfactory settlement of a tedious and difficult question. The lines having been worked in connection with those of the York, Newcastle, and Berwick, and Leeds Northern companies, during the past half-year, a statement of the joint revenue account is annexed. The proportion of that account due to this company is 137,520*l.* 16*s.*, to which has to be added 5,736*l.* 15*s.* 3*d.* for sundry receipts, and 2,465*l.* 3*s.* 1*d.* brought from last half-year. After deducting rent of Hull and Selby Railway, 34,666*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.*; interest on debentures, preference shares, &c., 60,609*l.* 13*s.* 5*d.*, a disposable balance remains of 50,446*l.* 7*s.* 7*d.* Out of this the directors recommend that a dividend should be declared at the rate of 3 per cent. per annum, leaving 2,144*l.* 10*s.* 1*d.* to be carried forward to the next half-year's account.

YORK, NEWCASTLE, AND BERWICK.

THE half-yearly meeting of this company was held in York, on Friday, February 17th, Mr. James Palleine in the chair. A dividend at the rate of 4 per cent. was declared.

The report of the directors states, that this company's share of the joint earnings is 237,980*l.*; to this must be added 3,170*l.*, composed of various items belonging specially to the line, and 3,709*l.* the balance from the last account, making the total income for the half-year 244,950*l.* After deducting from this the separate expenses, 2,500*l.* and 109,783*l.*, the amount of interest and rents, there remains a disposable balance of 132,667*l.* The directors recommend that out of this a dividend at the rate of 4 per cent. per annum be declared, which will leave a balance of 10,305*l.* to be carried to the next half-year. The works on the Bishop Auckland branch are in progress. The directors do not anticipate the necessity of making any call upon the extension or purchase shares during the present half-year. The directors have introduced into parliament bills to authorise the proposed traffic arrangements, and amalgamation between this company, the York and North Midland, and Leeds Northern companies; to obtain additional powers for constructing the docks at Jarrow, Slake-on-the-Tyne, and to enfranchise a certain wayleave. The share capital account shows a total of 7,554,303*l.*

GENERAL STATE OF THE MONEY MARKET.

THE annexed article, on the general condition of the money market, we have extracted from the *Morning Chronicle*, and, although we cannot agree in the whole of the views enunciated, it presents some points worthy of observation.

“It can hardly admit of a question that the influx of gold from Australia has saved us from extreme commercial pressure, during the last five or six months. Our importations of grain have, it may be safely assumed, amounted in value, during the period in question, to between ten and twelve millions sterling; and, independently of the adverse effect of that large importation upon the foreign exchanges, there have been in operation other and powerful causes, all tending to prolong the efflux of the precious metals from this country. At the end of October last, the total reserve of bullion in the Bank of England was about 15 millions; at the present time it is barely 14; and, in the interval of five months, the arrivals of gold and silver from Australia, America, and other quarters have been equal to more than 10 millions. The amount of the banking reserve, at the end of October, was about 6, the securities 28, and the circulation $24\frac{1}{2}$ millions. These figures are not materially different at present. The reserve stands at 6, the securities at 29, and the circulation at $23\frac{1}{2}$ millions. The extra million of securities has been half derived from the circulation, and half from the deposits. But if there had been no arrival of 10 millions of new gold in the interval, what would have been our situation by this time? As the facts stand, the money market has been firm and quiet. The rate of interest has remained steadily at 5 per cent., but there has been no pressure. Occasionally, when politics became apparently more threatening, or when misgivings were excited by the low state of the Government balance, some temporary alarm existed. But, on the whole, the country has met the difficulties of an extremely deficient harvest, of a consequent large importation of grain, of a period of disturbed foreign relations, and, ultimately, of a state of war, with an unprecedented absence of difficulty in the money market. We believe that every incident of this picture would have been violently reversed if it had not been for the resources afforded by the influx of gold from Australia, and by the consequences arising in the United States from the Californian discoveries. On the one hand, the direct importations of gold from Sydney and Melbourne enabled us to meet the drain from this country to the continent which has been actively in progress through the winter; and, on the other hand, the enormous demand in the United States for articles of British produce and manufacture has, so far, enabled us to derive from thence the largest portion of our supplies of grain, without depressing the exchange with New York to such an extent as to lead to any export of the metals from this country. Prior to December in last year, there was a large and constant remittance of gold from the United States to England; those remittances representing, of course, the balance or payments which the United States at that time was unable to prevent by sending here commodities equal in value to those which it imported. When the shipments of

grain, on English account, began in earnest from the Atlantic ports, the remittances ceased, because the trade between the two countries once more became a trade of interchange. But in former periods of a similar character—in 1846-47, for example—the effect of a large and sudden demand for American corn was very different. Then, the excess of importations was on the side of England, and the money market here was deranged by the consequent efflux of gold. It would have been so again during the last few months, if the enormous and active demand for imported goods, excited in America by the influx of the Californian supplies, had not acted so powerfully on the trade between the two countries as to render the large exports of corn to England no more than a corrective of the previously existing adverse state of the exchange as concerned America.

“The effects produced on the export trade to the United States by the Californian discoveries have been of the most striking kind. In 1846, the declared value of the exports was barely seven millions. In the year following (1847) the demand for corn raised our exports to eleven millions. In 1848, they fell off a million and a half. In 1849, the Californian supplies began to tell, and the trade was twelve millions. The next year it was fifteen. In 1851, it declined half a million. In 1853, it was sixteen and a half; and the last year, it was fully twenty millions. In six years the trade has been doubled. But the export trade with Australia has run a career still more startling. Five years ago, the amount of that trade was one and a half millions sterling. In the first year (1851) of the gold discoveries the trade was doubled; in 1852, it rose to more than four millions; and last year it amounted to more than sixteen.

“It was the effect produced in this country, mainly by the export trade to America and Australia, which, in 1852 and the first half of 1853, led to the exuberance of activity and prosperity observable on all hands. The new gold from both hemispheres came to us in payment of exports. In the early part of 1853, before the currents of demand and supply had adjusted themselves, the treasure accumulated for a few months in the vaults of the Bank of England, and led to the incessant and gloomy speculations which were then prevalent relative to a sudden and permanent fall in the rate of interest. But the inordinate accumulation did not continue long, and for more than a year we witnessed a continually declining reserve and a gradually increasing rate of interest. On the one hand, the new gold was distributed by this country in payment for those articles of foreign produce necessary for its increasing manufactures, and required for the consumption of its fully-employed population; and, on the other hand, the commencement of new enterprises, and the extension of those already tried, absorbed any redundant amounts of capital.

“With an European war upon our hands—a war to be carried on by an army and two powerful fleets engaged in distant regions—the immediate condition of the money market will depend very much on the extent to which we may continue to derive advantage from the Australian and Californian discoveries. Assuming the productiveness of the mines to continue in Victoria and in New South Wales, we may

be tolerably certain that nearly the whole amount of gold which may be raised will, as hitherto, flow into this country in payment of exports of one kind or another. We may also be tolerably certain that, assuming the Californian supplies to maintain their recent amount of about ten millions a-year, the export trade to the United States will again attain such a magnitude as will lead to a considerable annual remittance of gold to this country. We are fully justified, by the experience of the last two years, in regarding this process of transmission of the new gold from the countries of its production to this country in payment for exports, as the principal mode in which that new gold will reach the general markets of the world. The process is clear and simple enough—so clear and simple, indeed, that it is perhaps in danger of being set aside for some more ambitious method of explanation. Whether the resources yielded by the two streams of influx will be available at such times, and to such an extent, as to meet the demands for treasure which will assuredly arise if the war continues, remains to be seen. At present, perhaps, there are no prominent reasons for apprehension. Internally, the country is sound and prosperous. The finances are in good order, and we must assume that the Government will effectually provide for the replenishment of the Exchequer balances. The small amount of the banking reserve is the most immediate peril. It is quite possible, perhaps probable, that some temporary conjunction of circumstances may compel the Bank, in defence of its banking reserve, to resort to measures not only stringent and inconvenient in themselves, but leading to consequences much more serious than any short and sharp rise of the rate of discount. It may, perhaps, require some disagreeable lesson of this kind to make it quite clear that neither necessity nor policy renders it incumbent upon us to set aside nine millions of reserve to answer claims efficiently provided for by other guarantees. In the meantime, the extension of our export trade with the east and west, and, in fact, generally, and the occurrences of the war, will hardly fail to keep up the rate of interest. The speedy conquest of a definitive peace is, perhaps, too uncertain an event to enter into present speculations."

COMMERCIAL CREDIT ASSURANCE.

As the practical introduction of a new principle of assurance for the protection of traders against commercial losses is found to work successfully, we think it will prove interesting to our readers to furnish them with the first annual report presented by the principal existing society to their assurers. No doubt can be entertained that if it continues to be conducted with the prudence which has characterised its management in its early career, further progress may yet be effected. The system is well understood in France, where it has been for several years in operation with advantage to all parties concerned.

"Annual report of the council of reference of the Commercial Credit Mutual Assurance Society, presented to the assured at their first ordinary general meeting, held by adjournment on the 21st April, 1854, Mr. J. T. Bedford presiding. The council of reference, in presenting their first report,

feel justified in congratulating the mutual assurers in this society on the amount of success which has attended the first experiment in this country for testing the applicability of the principle of mutual assurance to the protection of traders against commercial losses. The satisfactory progress of the society up to the 31st December, 1853, will best appear from the general balance-sheet, prepared by the directors of the society, and verified by the auditor appointed on behalf of the assured.

General Balance-Sheet, 27th May, 1852, to 31st December, 1853.

<i>Dr.</i> —To premiums remitted on 22 cancelled policies ..	£893	19	5
Admitted claims, less 10 per cent., to reserved fund	24,527	1	0
	25,421	0	5
Balance on premium fund account	2,882	5	0
Ditto on reserved fund	2,728	19	3
	£31,032	4	8
<i>Cr.</i> —By premiums payable by 239 houses, assured since formation of society	£25,471	9	3
Supplemental premiums on increased returns, under Rule 31	1,881	0	2
Increased premiums, under Rule 37	710	19	4
Debts recovered, under Rule 56*	2,965	2	7
Interest	3	13	4
	£31,032	4	8

The following report, furnished to the council by the manager, pursuant to Rule 15, will be found to contain much valuable and interesting information :—

The manager reports that the total number of policies issued from the commencement of the society to the 31st December, 1853, amount to	251
In which number there are supplemental policies, under Rule 31	12
That there have been cancelled	22
	34

Leaving the total number of houses assured in the society on 31st December, 1853	217
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These 217 houses may be classified as to the amount of their respective annual returns, as follows :—

44 houses annual returns, under	10,000
80 " " " 10,000, and not exceeding	15,000
28 " " " above 15,000 " "	20,000
25 " " " " 20,000 " "	30,000
11 " " " " 30,000 " "	40,000
14 " " " " 40,000 " "	50,000
15 " " " " 50,000	

217

* Exclusive of unpaid dividends and compositions on estates in course of realisation, under deeds of assignment and otherwise.

The premiums payable for the year 1854, by the 217 houses, whose policies existed on 31st December, 1853, amount to £31,096 1s., exclusive of the supplemental or increased premiums which may arise under Rules 31 and 37.

The various businesses carried on by the houses assured, as described on their respective policies, are as follows:—Boot and shoe manufacturers, brewers, brass foundries, cork manufacturers, curriers, colour manufacturers, cotton manufacturers, corn and flour dealers, carpet dealers, coal merchants, confectioners, druggists, dyers, earthenware and glass dealers, florists (artificial), furriers, floor cloth manufacturers, fustian manufacturers, general warehousemen, general merchants and factors, grocers and tea dealers, gold beaters, hosiery manufacturers, hat manufacturers, hemp and flax merchants, hop factors, jewellers and watch manufacturers, iron merchants, ironmongers, leather merchants, lace dealers, linen manufacturers, milliners, provision merchants, perfumers, paper stainers, pickle and sauce dealers, pianoforte manufacturers, ribbon manufacturers, rice merchants, rope manufacturers, stationers, stone merchants, silk merchants, straw hat manufacturers, timber merchants and steam sawyers, tobacco manufacturers, umbrella manufacturers, woollen merchants and drapers, wine merchants. Further policies have been issued by the society since the 1st January this year; and (after allowing also for policies which have been cancelled) there are on this day 228 houses on the books of the society, who are policy holders, and whose aggregate annual returns amount in the whole to £4,925,000. The manager further reports, that the claims admitted since the commencement of the society, and up to the 31st December, 1853, are 781 in number, and amount in the whole to the sum of £27,252 6s. 11d.

These admitted claims may be classified according to their respective amounts, as under:—

190 claims	..	..	..	..	..	under £10
283	"	..	..	£10	and not exceeding	25
163	"	..	..	above 25	"	50
93	"	..	..	50	"	100
44	"	..	..	100	"	250
8	"	..	..	250		

781

The manager further reports, that in the reference department, since the formation of the society, and up to 31st December, 1853, there have been, independent of the general register of bankruptcies and insolvencies kept by the society,

3,288 special inquiries made on behalf of the assured, and
2,647 answers given to inquiries made by the assured.

Your council consider the number of mercantile houses who have become assurers affords a satisfactory proof of the progress of the principles of the society in public estimation. With regard to the admitted claims, your council have no comment to make, but the subject of rejected claims is one deserving some attention. At so early a period of the society's existence it is not surprising that many claims should be made by assurers in misapprehension, such for instance as for goods sold before the date of the policy—for a debt not wholly arising on the sale of goods—for transactions of a nature not protected by the policy—for example, sales to private consumers; in this way claims to a large amount have been necessarily rejected. The assured, however, derive one advantage from making these claims; the recovery department of the society is immediately put in operation against the debtor, without any regard to the profitable fate of the claim, when submitted to the council, and any

money recovered goes to the credit of the mutual funds if the claim be admitted, or to the credit of the assured individually if the claim be rejected. The most difficult and onerous duties of your council have however arisen in adjudicating upon claims requiring their decision as disinterested arbitrators between the individual claimant and the rest of the assured, and in the consideration of which they could have no especial rules to guide them. Feeling the grave responsibility that rested upon them, arising from the fact of their decisions being without appeal, they endeavoured, to the best of their ability, so to act in each particular case that the mutual fund entrusted to their care should be administered on the strictest principles of equity and justice; and they believe that if it were possible to give the particulars of every separate claim rejected by them, and submit them to this meeting, it would be found that your opinions upon the nature of the transaction on which the claim was based, would be in entire accordance with the decision of your council. Your council believe that in the almost unlimited power possessed by them will be found the great safeguard of the society, particularly in relation to a very natural but mistaken opinion that your society would tend to encourage incautious and even reckless trading; the knowledge that every claim is submitted to the strictest examination in the office, and then submitted to a body of gentlemen, possessing a practical acquaintance, from their own personal experience, of all the details of commercial life, and from whose decision there is no appeal, must of itself suffice to show the groundlessness of any such apprehension. One great advantage of the society is in its tendency to *prevent loss*; and the society has now attained a position in which it is enabled frequently to obtain information of an exclusive and important character, and which, in many instances, has saved the members of the society from heavy and immediate loss; and your council would urge upon you the great desirability of the assured making it a rule to apply to the reference department of the society previously to opening a new account; a considerable number of the claims sent in being in regard to debtors, respecting whom the society was in possession of information, the knowledge of which on the part of the assured would have prevented the loss being incurred. So deeply are they impressed with the importance of this point, that they would recommend a provision being made to induce the assured to adopt this course, such as making a reduction from all claims for loss upon first transactions, when enquiry had not been previously made of the society; and the council would also urge upon the assured individually the great importance of promptly advising the reference department, from time to time, of any intention to close an account, whereby the other assured in the same business would be prevented from opening a new account with a sinking man. With regard generally to the practical working of the rules, your council has deemed it advisable to make a special report to the directors of some alterations which they think might be made with benefit to the assured, whose opinion thereon will probably be asked by the directors. In conclusion, the council have no hesitation in stating, as the result of eighteen months' experience of the practical working of the society, that, although several of their number entered upon office with some doubts as to the soundness of the scheme, and much anxiety as to the probability of conducting it to a successful issue, yet they are now satisfied that it is founded on a sound basis; and, that even in the present stage of its existence, an assured house has considerable advantages over an uninsured house, in other respects similar; but when it shall become fully and fairly developed in all its bearings, the council consider it will be a most valuable and beneficial institution, not only in protecting the individual interests of the assured, but in securing generally greater safety to the transactions of the commercial world.

UNITED GUARANTEE AND LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANY.

THE fifth annual meeting of this company was held in the offices in the Old Jewry, on Thursday, April 6th, Mr. George Alexander Hamilton, M.P., in the chair.

The advertisement convening the meeting having been read,

Mr. Knight, the secretary, read the following report:—

"The directors beg to submit to the shareholders of the United Guarantee and Life Assurance Company their fifth annual report upon the position and prospects of the company, together with the statement of the receipts and expenditure for the past year, ending 31st December, 1853. The excitement produced in the public mind, in the early part of last year, on the subject of Life Assurance, in consequence of the parliamentary inquiry proposed by Government, and more particularly pending the discussion of the question, tended in some measure to retard the operations of offices of recent date, and thereby rendered it difficult to sustain the ordinary accession of income from new business; but it is satisfactory to know, that the amount of premiums received by this company on new policies, nevertheless, closely approximated to that of the year 1852. Since the establishment of the company in April, 1849, to the 31st December last, 4,883 proposals have been made for assurance, of which 2,223 have been declined or not completed, and 2,660 accepted. The premiums received during the past year amounted to £9,825 10s. 1d. During the three months ending 31st of March, a satisfactory increase on this amount has manifested itself, and the income of the current year cannot be reasonably calculated at less than £12,000. Notwithstanding the difficulties which invariably attend the working out a new system, the result of an investigation into the receipts and claims of the 'fidelity guarantee department' has established the gratifying fact, that this portion of the company's business has, under all the disadvantages with which it has had to contend, proved remunerative; while its rapid extension shows that its utility is felt, and its benefits appreciated more and more by the community, and that it will speedily attain the development anticipated at the formation of the company. Among the valuable new connections acquired by the company in the past year, may be mentioned the Midland Railway, the Grand Trunk Railway of Canada, and other important railway companies; while our banking interest has been fortified by the accession of the National Provincial Bank of England, Messrs. Hankey, Prescott, Williams, &c. Business of considerable amount has also been effected with the colonies. The report of the select committee of the House of Commons on 'assurance associations,' has been laid before the public, and the inquiry will, doubtless, prove of benefit to this description of enterprise; inasmuch as the committee state in strong terms that the application of the principle of life assurance is capable of great extension, 'not only in the higher and middle classes of society, but also among the humbler classes.' To this branch of the company's business it is the intention of your directors to apply themselves with increased energy. Your directors regret that their application to the Legislature for a 'special act' to enable the Lords of the Treasury to authorise the departments of the civil service to accept the guarantee of the company for officers under the Crown, was arrested in its progress by the chairman of committees of the House of Lords. The bill, however, passed through the House of Commons without opposition, having been previously submitted to the Secretary of the Treasury, and petitions, numerous signed by clerks and officials in the customs and post-office, with the sanction of the Board of Customs and of the postmaster-general, were presented to both Houses in its favour. Upwards of 70 petitions, signed by chairmen of boards of guardians in the most important towns in the kingdom, were also presented; the question regarding security for poor-law officials

rendering the powers sought for of great moment to that numerous and meritorious class of *employés*. The want of such an institution may thus be considered to have been established beyond all question; and it may be fairly expected that the technical difficulties to the recognition of this company by the Government authorities will be shortly removed. Propositions with this view are, indeed, under the consideration of certain departments of the Government. Since the last annual meeting some important agencies have been established, and greater efficiency has been imparted to those already existing. The expenses consequent on these and other measures necessary for the due extension of the business have been heavier than was anticipated. Some losses, also, of large amount have been incurred by risks undertaken in the earlier period of the company's existence, and of a character which subsequent experience has since led the directors to decline. These causes have combined to render it advisable to maintain the paid-up capital by the announcement of another call, which became payable on the 21st February last. But the income of the company has now nearly reached the point at which it may be considered that a revenue has been acquired sufficient not only to cover a liberal current expenditure, but to accumulate a fund for future claims, and to leave a surplus for division among the shareholders and policyholders of the company. Impressed with the conviction that this desired result will be accelerated and augmented in an eminent degree by the acquisition of the business of another company, by means of a union, involving little or no increase of annual expenditure, negotiations have been entered into with a 'life assurance company' of large connections, and the directors hope very speedily to summon a special meeting, at which the terms of the proposed amalgamation will be laid before you. The directors have to announce with regret the retirement of the late noble chairman of the court of directors. The vacancy has been supplied by the election of George Alexander Hamilton, Esq., M.P. In pursuance of the deed of settlement, the following directors go out of office:—Charles Podmore, Esq., Richard Swift, Esq., M.P., Joshua Proctor Brown Westhead, Esq., and George Alexander Hamilton, Esq., M.P.; and John Parker, Esq., Henry Bion Reynolds, Esq., and Henry Withers, Esq., as auditors; but, being eligible, offer themselves for re-election."

The chairman said this being the first opportunity he had had of meeting the shareholders of the company in his capacity of chairman of the court of directors, perhaps it might not be considered out of place were he, in moving the adoption of the report, to state the circumstances under which, and out of which, he was led to accept his present office. His doing so would probably be found not inappropriate, inasmuch as his remarks would refer to topics which, under ordinary circumstances, would form the subject matter of a chairman's observations. In the year 1852; when he had the honour to hold a high financial position under the late Government, he was waited upon by three gentlemen connected with the company, who requested an interview with him at the treasury, in order to make a proposition which they believed to be of considerable importance to the Government, whilst it also involved the interests of the public and the company. At that time he knew nothing of the company or of the gentlemen waiting upon him, excepting that he had been assured by a gentleman on whose judgment he placed reliance, that they were gentlemen of character, integrity, and good judgment; the gentlemen he alluded to were Mr. Ryley, Mr. Beachcroft, and Mr. Knight. The subject which they were desirous of bringing under the consideration of the Government was this—they were anxious to obtain from the Government a sanction for giving the guarantee of the company on behalf of the civil servants of the Crown in cases in which security for fidelity is required. They stated to him the nature and object of the company, and pointed out the great advantage in a guarantee by a public company for the fidelity of the officers in the several

departments of the public service. He was aware of the difficulty and unpleasantness which existed in procuring private friends to become sureties for young men in situations of trust; and he at once felt the importance of the proposition when he learned that the object of the company was to combine the advantages of life assurances with those of guarantees for fidelity. No one could feel more strongly than he did the truth of the adage, that "honesty was the best policy;" but he could not help admitting that the principles of honesty might be strengthened and supported by a system under which a person could secure a certain advantage and provision for his family in the event of his death—an advantage and provision dependent, however, upon the maintenance of his integrity and honesty during life. Taking this practical view of the subject, he informed the deputation at once that, fully seeing and appreciating the advantages of the system, he would do the utmost in his power to promote their object. Technical difficulties, however, presented themselves to prevent the measure being then carried out, and the matter was referred to the law-officers of the Crown, when he regretted to find that it was impossible to effect the object without the assistance of the Legislature. He, therefore, recommended that an application should be made to Parliament for a bill to enable them to get over the difficulties, and stated that he should be glad, in his official capacity, to assist them in securing the passing of the bill. A change in the Government soon afterwards occurred, and he therefore could only assist the company in his capacity as a private member of Parliament. He, however, spoke on the subject to his successor in office, Mr. Wilson; that gentleman took the same view which he had taken as regarded the advantages of the system, and the result was that the bill passed through the House of Commons without any difficulty. Unfortunately, however, the chairman of the committee of the House of Lords opposed its further progress in that House. These were the circumstances which made him acquainted with the company. Later in the autumn a communication was made to him (Mr. Hamilton) by the directors that, owing to ill-health, Lord Erskine was about to retire from his position as chairman of the company. He had not the honour of being acquainted with the noble lord; but, from all he had heard of him, he was sure that it must be a matter of regret to the shareholders that, owing to the state of his health, he had been obliged to withdraw from his office. In the communication alluded to he was asked whether, in the event of the noble lord's retirement, he would accept that office. Before replying he sent a most stringent set of inquiries to the secretary, relative to the position and circumstances of the company. The questions he sent were fully and satisfactorily answered, and although he must acknowledge that the preliminary expenses at first appeared to be very considerable, yet, upon a consideration of all the circumstances of the case, he was of opinion that those expenses could not have been avoided. (Hear, hear.) The shareholders must bear in mind that their society was not established for the purpose of assuring lives alone, but that they proposed to carry out a system of assurance on new principles, and that, in order to make it known and understood, they were compelled to incur unusual and considerable expenses; and, indeed, he believed, having regard to the present active competition which existed in life assurance, no new company could possibly acquire a large business without incurring a very heavy expenditure in making itself known to the public. On the whole, then, notwithstanding the large absorption of capital in preliminary and working expenses—looking at the business there had been done and the means they had acquired of pushing it forward, he arrived at the opinion that the company had just reached the point when not only might its position be considered a safe one, but when there was a reasonable prospect, by proper exertions, that the shareholders might be remunerated for the heavy expenses they had incurred. He, therefore, informed the direc-

tors that, under all the circumstances, he should have no objection to do himself the honour of accepting the office of chairman. If he was in possession of any peculiar qualification for that office it had been derived from his having served on the committee of the House of Commons on life assurance last session, and in the proceedings of which he took a strong interest. There was an impression abroad that that committee had been formed with a feeling of hostility to the new companies. He had entered on the inquiry with no prepossessions on the subject one way or the other, and he was bound to say that the utmost impartiality, ability, and industry were displayed by Mr. Wilson in the consideration of the various questions involved in the subject. Though the feeling seemed to prevail that when Mr. Wilson entered on the inquiry, he was not friendly to the new companies, he must say that he never saw any gentleman act with greater impartiality, or who appeared more sincerely desirous of arriving at the truth on the subject, than Mr. Wilson—(cheers). Most important evidence was given before the committee by men of experience and eminence in life assurance; and he must be allowed to say that the evidence given by Mr. Ryley, their actuary, was of a peculiarly valuable and most independent character. He fully concurred with Mr. Ryley in that portion of his evidence in which he deprecated the interference of Government with assurance companies. Legislation on these subjects, he believed, so far from tending to secure the public interests, only tended to impair the efficiency of management, by inducing the shareholders, instead of looking after the affairs themselves, to depend too much on the Government or upon Acts of Parliament for security. As a member of the committee, however, he ought, perhaps, to qualify his observations, by stating that it was desirable to make some amendments as regarded assurance companies in the Joint-Stock Companies' Act. He understood that in the course of the session, a bill was to be introduced into Parliament for this purpose, and he could assure the shareholders that he should most carefully watch it, and communicate with other assurance companies and the members of their institution upon it, with a view of doing all in their power to protect the interest of the company. The report of the directors, read to them that day, had referred to one important statement in the committee's report, but it had not referred to another statement, which he thought equally important. The committee had borne testimony to the generally sound position of the existing companies—an acknowledgment which, having regard to their number, the competition which existed amongst them, and the necessity of larger expenses to secure business, he thought was highly important. As regards the transactions of the company during the past year, the report had given full information. He believed that, in commercial matters as well as in life, experience was only to be purchased at the cost of some amount of loss and suffering. This company had sustained some heavy losses, arising out of transactions at the early period of their existence as a company. It was, perhaps, impossible to do a new species of business properly until they became aware, by experience, of the nature of the losses to which they were liable. He believed that the principles on which they now conducted their business were perfectly safe, and that it was now on such a footing as to leave no reason to fear that they would meet with any extraordinary losses. He was bound, however, to add that, in order to place the company in what he should call a satisfactory position, great exertions were yet required. He had already stated that, in consequence of the competition existing in every branch of commercial enterprise in this country, no great results could be realised without great exertion; and, in this company it was peculiarly required to push forward their life business. That they must make up their minds to do, either by an extension of their agencies, or by a judicious amalgamation with some established assurance office of respectable standing

and business. The report adverted to a communication lately made to the Government relative to a subject which he had adverted to at the commencement of his address—a proposition was now under consideration by one department of the Government in such a form that he trusted it would be accepted for one branch of the public service; and if so, he believed it would at once bring them a very large accession of business. The report informed them that upwards of seventy petitions, signed by chairmen of boards of guardians, had been presented to Parliament relative to the securities to be taken for poor-law officials. Since that time several applications had also been addressed to the directors of the company, and he believed that, if they obtained the sanction of the department to their proposition, a large number of public employes would immediately avail themselves of the advantages offered by the company. He would only add for himself, as chairman, that in all public companies he always considered the directors and shareholders as partners, having but one common interest to serve. The directors were only trustees for the shareholders, and he believed the interests of the company could only be properly served by the most cordial feeling, and frank communication and good understanding subsisting amongst them. So long as he was the chairman of the company, he should consider every shareholder as one of his constituents, and he should feel happy at any time to give advice or information to any proprietor upon any point connected with the interests of the company. In conclusion, he begged to move that the report be adopted and printed for circulation amongst the proprietors, and that the statement of receipts and expenditure be received and entered on the minutes—(cheers).

Mr. Causton rose with great pleasure to second the resolution, which he believed, after the very frank and straightforward explanation of the chairman, would be unanimously agreed to. When the company was first projected, he looked upon it as likely to afford great and lasting benefits on the rising generation, many young men of talent being kept out of situations of responsibility in consequence of the difficulty experienced in obtaining securities for their fidelity. He most fully concurred in the observations of their hon. chairman—whom he had great pleasure in seeing in that position—on that subject and the prospects of the company, with which he (Mr. Causton) was more gratified than ever. It was true that they had had heavy expenses and losses to contend against; but seeing that the company, had now obtained an income of something like £12,000 a year, he felt assured it must ere long take a very proud position, and he believed that within 12 months their income would be at least £18,000, or £19,000. He trusted that the shareholders would do all in their power to push forward the business, and he might here remind the policyholders who had the privilege of attending the annual meetings, that it was also equally their interest to endeavour to extend the business, as the larger were the profits the greater would be the bonus to which they would become entitled—(cheers).

The chairman, to show the progress making by the company's business, read the following comparison between the receipts from premiums in the first three months of 1853 and 1854 respectively:—

				1853.		1854.	
January	...	..	..	£855	12 5	£947	13 2
February	..	..	..	973	13 0	1023	0 9
March	..	..	..	983	10 10	1514	8 9
				£2812	16 3	£3485	2 8

The retiring directors and auditors having been re-elected,

A vote of thanks was given to the directors for their past services, which was briefly acknowledged by the chairman.

Mr. Ashurst moved a vote of thanks to the officers of the company, feeling that they were justly entitled to it. He did not wish to dilate on the merits of these officers, but having been brought much into connection with their worthy secretary, Mr. Knight, and with Mr. Ryley, their actuary, he must be allowed to state that he had always found them most energetic and zealous in their endeavours to serve the interests of the company.

The motion having been seconded, and testimony borne by the chairman to the claims of the secretary and actuary on the gratitude of the proprietors, the resolution was unanimously passed.

Mr. Knight briefly returned thanks for himself and colleagues.

A cordial vote of thanks to the chairman closed the proceedings.

AMERICAN STATE STOCKS AND BONDS.

THE annexed is a summary of the amount of American Stocks and Bonds held in the United States, and the proportion held by foreigners; prepared by order of the Senate:—

	Total.	Held by Foreigners.
United States Stock	\$58,215,517	\$27,000,000
State Stocks	190,718,221	72,831,507
113 Towns and Cities, Bonds ..	79,352,149	16,462,322
347 Counties, Bonds	13,928,369	5,000,000
985 Banks, Stocks	266,724,955	6,888,996
75 Insurance Companies, Stocks ..	12,829,730	378,172
244 Railroad Companies, Stocks ..	309,893,967	8,244,025
Ditto ditto Bonds	179,111,552	43,888,752
16 Canal and Navigation, Stocks ..	35,888,918	554,900
Ditto ditto Bonds	22,130,569	1,967,547
15 Miscellaneous Stocks	16,425,612	802,720
Ditto Bonds	2,358,323	295,773
Grand Total	1,178,567,882	184,184,714

THE BANKERS' MAGAZINE,

AND

Journal of the Money Market.

JUNE, 1854.

BANKRUPTCY REFORM.

DIGEST OF THE REPORT OF THE ROYAL COMMISSION.

THE unsatisfactory state of bankruptcy administration rendered it necessary for the Government to appoint a commission to enquire into and report upon the law and practice of bankruptcy. Within the last few days the report and evidence thereupon have been laid before Parliament. The Royal Commission consisted of the Right Honourable Spencer Horatio Walpole (chairman); Sir George Rose, Messrs. Swanston, Hill and Bacon, Queen's Counsel; Mr. Commissioner Holroyd, George Carr Glyn, Esq., and E. Cooke, Esq., Barrister. The result of their labours has been an enormous blue book, containing the evidence, oral and written, taken by the commission, and some valuable mercantile statistics. It is our purpose to place before our readers a digest of the whole.

The heads of enquiry were—The cause of the diminution of the fees and funds applicable to the payment of the expenses of the court—Whether such diminution was likely to be permanent—Whether any reduction could be effected in the establishments of the bankruptcy courts, either in London or in the country, and what other measures could be proposed for meeting their expenses—Whether any, and what more efficient check, could be placed on the accounts of official assignees—Whether the classification of certificates under the Consolidation Act of 1849 had or not been productive of benefit—Whether an alteration of the statute would be in this respect desirable, and if so, what changes were advisable; and finally, Whether and in what other particulars the Act of 1849 required amendment.

It appeared, from figures drawn from authentic sources, that the falling off in the business of the bankruptcy courts since 1849 has been marked and decisive. The commissioners give the results. The present constitution of the Court dates from 1842, when the country district courts were instituted. From 1842 to 1849 the surplus and deficit stand thus:—

Years ending 31st Dec.	Surplus.	Deficit.
1843 ..	£16,873 5 6	—
1844 ..	—	£10,855 3 11
1845 ..	—	13,382 13 6
1846 ..	—	3,802 13 0
1847 ..	8,696 14 4	—
1848 ..	17,736 9 5	—
1849 ..	—	3,980 8 8
Total surplus ..	£43,306 9 3	£32,020 19 1
Deduct total deficit	32,020 19 1	
Total net surplus	£11,285 10 2	

The commissioners next take the same results since the passing of the Consolidated Act. Here they are:—

Year ending 31st Dec.	Deficit.
1850 ..	£8,601 7 0
1851 ..	14,586 3 4
1852 ..	10,376 3 11
1853 ..	18,142 8 2
	£51,706 2 5

So that every year since that act was passed there has been a *deficit*, and, with one exception, a progressively increasing *deficit*. Subtract the total *deficit* since 1849 from the total net surplus before it, and there remains a total net *deficit* of £40,420 12s. 3d. If matters went on in this way, it is clear that the Bankruptcy Court would itself be in the *Gazette*, and would not even be able to come in under the five-shilling clause. The Court constantly lays down rules of prudence and foresight for the conduct of traders, and defines with care what constitutes recklessness, but falls itself into the very error it denounces:

“Whose own example weakens all its laws,
And is itself the prodigal it draws.”

The next question that naturally arises is, how this deficit was supplied. It appears that the surplus revenue over expen-

diture in January, 1843, amounted to upwards of £113,000. This stock has since been transferred, and forms that mysterious item in Bankruptcy Returns termed the "Chief Registrar's Account." This sum of £113,000 has been of late years "growing small by degrees," and there now remains about £73,000.

In proportion to the increase of deficit, there has been a decrease of business, as the following figures will show :—

In the year ending								Fiats issued.
Oct. 11th, 1846	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,533
" 1847	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,599
" 1848	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2,181
" 1849	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,550
Total in four years								6,863
In the year ending								
Oct. 11th, 1850	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	938
" 1851	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	959
" 1852	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	982
" 1853	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	799
Total in four years								3,678
The petitions under the arrangement clauses during the last-mentioned period were								247
								3,925

Showing that, whereas the average number of cases during the four years ending October, 1849, was 1,715, that during the corresponding term ending October, 1853, was 981.

One of the causes of the diminution of business the commissioners attribute (although many of the witnesses do not) to the general prospects of trade and commerce which has recently prevailed, and we think the commissioners are right. The second cause is a better and more prudent system of trading among the smaller traders.—This we think questionable. A third, the effect of that proviso in the Consolidation Act, which precludes a trader from obtaining adjudication of bankruptcy against himself, unless he can show that his available estate is at least sufficient to pay 5s. in the pound, clear of all charges. To sustain this view, the commissioners quote certain statistics furnished by Mr. Acraman, an official assignee at Bristol, which show that during the four years ending October, 1849, whilst the adjudications on the petitions of creditors were only 137, those on the petitions of the bankrupts themselves were 365; that during the corresponding four years ending in October last, the former were only 15, whilst the latter were 187. The com-

missioners also quote the general results, which show a corresponding decrease in the number of voluntary bankruptcies, the figures being as follows :—

			Petitions of the traders themselves.		Petitions of Creditors.
In the year ending 11th Oct.,	1846	..	662	..	871
"	"	1847	779	..	820
"	"	1848	1182	..	999
"	"	1849	887	..	663
	Totals	..	3510		3353
In the year ending 11th Oct.,	1850	..	83	..	855
"	"	1851	95	..	864
"	"	1852	81	..	901
"	"	1853	85	..	714
	Totals	..	344		3334

But these figures, striking as they are, do not by any means prove that the falling off is solely or even mainly attributable to the five-shilling clause. It is in part due to the fewer number of failures, to the arrangements out of court, and to the increasing reluctance of creditors and debtors to resort to bankruptcy administration. That the five-shilling clause does not form any such bar as the commissioners seem to think, it is only necessary to recollect the number of what every one conversant with the Court of Bankruptcy knows as "friendly bankruptcies." Nothing is more common than to get up the debt, the trading, and the act of bankruptcy—the three preliminaries to the *Gazette*—in order to have the "whitewashing" process effected. The recent cases arising out of the defunct Islington Cattle Market Company establish, or rather illustrate this. A few days ago—on Saturday, 20th ult. (May)—Mr. Clarke, one of the projectors of that company, came before the Commissioner to pass his examination: the debts and liabilities were about £40,000, the assets for distribution, *nil*. Mr. Clarke frankly admitted that the petition was a friendly one; that he was in no respect a trader, except in connection with the aforesaid company; and that he came there for the express purpose of being relieved from his liabilities. There is no restraint whatever, in short, upon pauper bankruptcies, except this, that the petitioning creditor is liable for the costs up to the choice of assignees.

But we entirely agree with the commissioners as to the inutility of the five-shilling clause, and the observations we have just made are conclusive against the enactment. The commissioners recommend the abolition of the proviso, but would enact that no

one can claim relief in bankruptcy who cannot show available assets to the extent of £150. This recommendation, if adopted, will of course be still liable to the evasion of friendly bankruptcies which *must* come in and *must* be dealt with, for if the debtor owes more than £300, and be a trader, the Insolvent Court will not deal with him.

Another cause of the diminution of business is the severity of the penal clauses in the Act of 1849; another, the publicity of bankruptcy proceedings and the objections which creditors entertain thereto—an objection, however, which had equal force before 1849 as since; and finally (we give the commissioners' own words)—“the great expensiveness of the system, in fees and per centages charged against the estate, which induces all parties to prefer a settlement out of court by composition or other arrangement,” and they go on to say that the fees and per centages are certainly too numerous and too high. The expense of administering an estate in bankruptcy is, in some instances at least, greater than in chancery. An example of this has been given by Mr. Murray, a solicitor, with reference to two cases which occurred in his own practice during the last two years. In the one case, the debtor was made bankrupt on the 15th November, 1851; and in the other, the Court of Chancery made a decree for the usual administration of effects of a merchant deceased, on the 4th November, 1852. In the bankruptcy case the assets received and divided, or to be divided by the official assignee, were £23,089 17s. 8d.; upon this the expenses were £880 16s. 7d., whilst the cost of administering the assets in chancery, £17,000, were only £53 15s. 5d. The name of the case in bankruptcy was Spencer Ashlin, a name familiar to some of our readers; that of the case in chancery, *Hutton v. Rosseter*. Upon turning to Mr. Murray's evidence in the blue book, we find the following.

The CHAIRMAN: These two cases cannot be taken as samples of the ordinary business of the two courts?

Mr. MURRAY: I think they *might* be taken as samples of the ordinary business of the two courts where there are large sums to administer. Take the Bankruptcy Court, where there are funds to administer, and that would be the expense.

And the chairman pursues the inquiry thus:—

Would you take them as ordinary samples of the business of the courts so that where you had £15,000 to administer in bankruptcy and £15,000 to administer in chancery, as an ordinary rule, the expenses of the court in the one case would come to £700, and in the other case to somewhere about £502?

Mr. MURRAY: Yes, I should think so. In the case of the £53 we had a great number of orders. Suppose a case in the Court of Chancery in which there is the money, and it is collected in, it would not come to £53 to pay it out; but you could not administer an estate of the amount of Ashlin's in the

Court of Bankruptcy for less than £880; in point of fact, it would be more than that, because the additional sum to the official assignee would be £80 odd under the recent orders.

The witness alluded to the recent rules and orders published when Lord St. Leonard's was Chancellor. And Mr. Murray concludes his evidence by saying—"I would improve all the composition clauses, and, if possible, avoid bankruptcy."

The commissioners give a detailed account of the expenses of the bankruptcy establishment, for which we have not space, but present a summary:—

Salaries to commissioners, registrars, taxing-master, ushers, &c.	£59,759	15	9
Compensations to former commissioners, clerk of hanaper, &c.	21,565	4	7
Retiring annuities	2,900	0	0
Court-rent, travelling, stationery, &c.	4,366	4	0
Bank remuneration	1,799	17	8
	£90,391	2	0

Amongst the compensations is the monstrous annual allowance of £7,352 14s. 6d. to the *Patentee of Bankrupts*.

The commissioners recommend that as regards bank remuneration either that it should be discontinued, or commutation of the per centages into a fixed annual payment of a considerably lower amount. They recommend a revision of the court and travelling expenses. The retiring annuities, they state, cannot be done away with, nor the compensations; but they advise that the latter be thrown on the consolidated fund, at least, whilst the present deficiency of income below expenditure lasts—a recommendation which the Chancellor of the Exchequer will regard with little favour.

The commissioners state, what indeed has long been obvious, that "the officers of the court are now too numerous," and if business does not increase, "a large reduction may be made in them." They would strike from the list the following:—

One London commissioner	£2,000	0	0
His registrar	1,000	0	0
Usher	100	0	0
Five country commissioners	9,000	0	0
Their registrars	4,000	0	0
Ushers	400	0	0
Saving by reduction of salaries to registrars, London and country	1,600	0	0
Total saving	£18,100	0	0

As to the Accountant's office, they would dispense with two clerks. And with regard to official assignees, of which in town

and country there are thirty-two, they would reduce the number to twenty-two. As to the remuneration of these officers, the commissioners recommend that the estates should be divided into classes according to the assets, and that the assignees should take in rotation. They recommend a revision of their per centages, some of which, they say, perhaps may be abolished, and are of opinion that the London official assignees' remuneration ought to range between £1,000 and £1,400, and the country from £800 to £1,200. This is the least satisfactory part of the report.

As to the court broker, they recommend the extinction of that post, with power to the Commissioner to order the employment of one of these gentry when he thinks fit; a discretion which it is to be hoped will be seldom exercised.

As to the messengers, they recommend that in all future appointments a salary should be given, and that the present scale of remuneration to messengers should be "much reduced."

As to the bankrupt's balance sheet, the commissioners have suggested, what every man of common sense who considered the subject has long thought, that, instead of employing an accountant, "the general rule ought to be that the bankrupt ought to make out his accounts for himself."

The commissioners propose further checks upon official assignees and their accounts, into which it is not necessary to enter.

The main recommendations which follow are a mitigation of the penal provisions of the Act of 1849, improvements in the law relating to arrangements by deed, alterations in the clauses relating to arrangements under the control of the Court, and also as regards the classification of the certificate.

With respect to the 201st section, which relates to gaming, and wagering time bargains in Government or other stock, offences which now deprive the bankrupt of his certificate, they recommend a milder punishment—a suspension of the certificate from one to three years; but with respect to other offences under this section, such as destroying or falsifying books in contemplation of or after bankruptcy, they would leave the law as it now stands—total refusal of the certificate and refusal of protection. As to the offences enumerated under the 256th section, and also the punitive provisions of the 257th, 258th and 259th clauses, the commissioners recommend revision, with a view to mitigation. As the language of the report is important we will give the *ipsissima verba*:—"These sections, (257th, 258th and 259th,) which are simply penal, have probably a greater influence on the business of the Court than any other of the penal provisions. They are new, and in our opinion cannot be

justified. They turn the creditor who has proved a debt into a judgment creditor, and enable him to enforce a writ of execution against the person of a bankrupt to whom the commissioners may have refused protection on any ground whatever, and that too without any accusation, trial or conviction. A power of this kind is impolitic and mischievous; for the punishment inflicted will seldom operate by way of example, as it may be procured at the suit of a private person and for private purposes; it may also be exercised vindictively or maliciously. We think such a power ought not to be entrusted to any creditor under bankruptcy, and therefore these sections ought to be repealed.

A revision of the arrangement sections of the Consolidation Act from 224 to 229 is also recommended, with a view to facilitate compositions.

The commissioners are of opinion that the law as regards the classification of the certificate is vague and ill-defined, and cannot be administered with justice or precision, and they recommend that certificates ought to be of only two classes, one of conformity, and the other (where the debtor's conduct has been exemplary) of approval.

As to their remarks upon bills of sale, it is needless to give them, for a measure is now on its way through Parliament, which will certainly pass during the present session, amply providing for the grievous defects as regards those instruments of fraud under the existing Bankrupt law.

There are other minor suggestions—as, for instance, the removal of the Bankruptcy Court in Basinghall-street, to the proposed site of the new courts between the Strand and Lincoln's-inn—the filing of the declaration of insolvency in the district where the bankruptcy is to be prosecuted—a revision and reduction of the scale of costs—the power of taxing bills of auctioneers and accountants—the administration of the effects of a deceased trader who was at his death insolvent; but the above are the main recommendations. We have not touched upon the various plans and suggestions which the commissioners have negatived, but have as concisely and as clearly as we could endeavoured to place before our readers the positive results of a blue book containing 546 closely printed folio pages. Whatever opinions may be entertained by the mercantile community upon the various suggestions of the Royal Commissioners, all must feel grateful for the assiduity and ability which they devoted to this laborious and unpaid task.

PARLIAMENTARY FINANCIAL DEBATES.

PARLIAMENTARY debates extend now-a-days to such an extraordinary length, that it is almost impossible to keep pace with their progress. With the most uninteresting topics column after column is consumed, members who in reality have the least to say endeavouring to make their speeches the longest. The facilities of the press, and the marvellous accuracy of the reporters, have constituted this a growing evil, and the public are already loudly complaining of the absorption of time occupied in their perusal. If our great statesmen are permitted, on questions of vital importance, a hearing of three or four hours, Mr. Somebody must immediately after, particularly under official sanction, indulge the House with an equally lengthy address, which, whether political or statistical, exhibits more prominently the vanity of the speaker than the utilitarian character of his views or information. Perhaps the last and the present sessions have established this fact in a more marked manner than many others which have preceded them, and it now becomes an almost intolerable task to wade through the mass of rant and fustian so frequently presented to notice.

It is not to be denied that during a period similar to the one through which we are now passing it is highly essential for the public to be fully informed of the various phases of affairs; but few, we presume, will be prepared to advocate the encouragement of a proceeding principally adopted to secure personal popularity at the expense of the time and business of the country. Let any one who doubts the correctness of these observations refer for the past two years to the space occupied in our daily journals with even financial subjects, and when they have gone through them we shall be much mistaken if they do not readily confess that many valuable hours have been wantonly sacrificed through the perpetuation of this system. Important as the matters are which have occupied attention from the date of the introduction of the South Sea Conversion, to the latest connected with the proposed restriction of the issue of Exchequer-bonds, it must be apparent to most parties that their consideration could have been brought within a much narrower compass, and consequently rendered more intelligible to the general multitude. No one grudges for an instant the time and space occupied by the principal members of the Cabinet, or those who take the leading rank in opposition; but it is those second and third-rate orators, who, considering themselves greater than their masters, illustrate in every shape the fable of the bull and the frog, and create the inconvenience mentioned. Although we do not immediately anticipate experiencing the salutary change desired, the evil, we trust, will not long remain

uncorrected, and an appeal to the good sense of the individuals themselves may not be without its advantage.

Passing from this notice of the unnecessary and tedious nature of the extended reports, we now come to the business legitimately transacted within the month. The supplemental Budget has of course presented the principal field for discussion; and, notwithstanding the increased proportion of direct taxation involved, the income tax being doubled, and the malt and spirit duties increased, it has received the sanction of Parliament by a large majority. The plan eliminated by Mr. Gladstone for stamping foreign bills of exchange, and the incidental introduction of a suggestion that a considerable source of revenue might be derived from the application of a general principle of stamping to bankers' cheques have also been introduced, but the latter has met a decided negative. The preponderating testimony of the representatives of the banking interest in Parliament, together with that of the Chancellor, as expressed through Mr. Wilson, has at once settled the point which we should think will not be speedily revived. Although Mr. Thomson Hankey professes to believe that an arrangement of the kind may probably be hereafter attempted, the explanation given by Mr. Wilson of the reasons for Government refusing to lend a favourable ear to the proposal, will, it is thought, exercise weight with whatever party shall at a future period be called to office.

"The real considerations which had weighed with the Government in coming to the conclusion they had adopted he would now state. During the last twenty years, nothing had experienced greater development than the banking business of this country. In small towns, before the establishment of joint-stock banks and their agencies, the state of things was extremely inconvenient as compared with the present system, and attended with less economy to all concerned. He would illustrate his argument by reference to what had occurred in Scotland. Joint-stock banks were established in Scotland many years before they were established in England, and branches also were established in every village in Scotland. At that time English bankers never could understand how the Scotch banks could afford to have these branches in all these small villages. Upon a close examination before a committee, it at last became evident that it really arose from the economy of capital which was accomplished in consequence of those banks holding out the small temptation of interest from day to day upon deposits. It was ascertained that the deposits in the Scotch banks—and this was fifteen years ago—were upwards of £33,000,000, bearing interest, while the note currency of that country was so economised by the use of cheques and the keeping of banking accounts, that the whole circulation of notes to represent £33,000,000 of deposits was barely £3,000,000. He had watched, with the greatest interest, the development of the same principle in England. We had seen joint-stock banks and their branches established in all our towns, and we had seen small tradesmen and farmers who, twenty years ago, never had a thought of having a bankers' account, now having all their small money deposits in the banks. Let the committee consider what the effect of this was in keeping a vast aggregate amount of capital—although the individual amounts were trifling—in the hands of the bankers for commercial

purposes. He conceived that this was of the utmost importance; but he believed that if they imposed a stamp upon cheques drawn upon bankers, these farmers and small traders, instead of drawing their small cheques, as they did now, for each transaction, would draw out a sufficient amount of money to carry them over the week by a single cheque; and we should revert to the state in which we were some years ago, with capital lying idle in individual hands, the aggregate of which, when collected in the bankers' hands, would form an enormous amount to be used for commercial purposes."

The great event, however, in connexion with the budget, has been the objection raised to the power sought by Mr. Gladstone to obtain further sums through the medium of Exchequer-bonds, or Exchequer-bills, but the amendment proposed by Mr. T. Baring has been defeated. The occasion brought forth strong denunciations of the financial policy of the Chancellor, who had once again to encounter the rebukes of his opponents, respecting the failure of the conversion scheme—the late unsuccessful effort to negotiate his new securities in the open market furnishing fresh materials for assault from his predecessor, who catalogued the "errors" committed with surprising precision. Nor can this be wondered at when we find that Mr. Gladstone still persists in maintaining the position he originally assumed, and contends that the plan he is pursuing is the one best calculated to meet the emergencies of the moment. With the state of parties as they stand at this juncture, it was not thought probable that any political impression would be made by the discussion, but it has fairly elicited the views of those who are supposed to know something of the subject, and has placed in strong contrast the several opinions enunciated.

The Bank of England, with her privileges; the necessities of the Government; the reduction of the rate of interest on Exchequer-bills; the diminution of the public balances, and the consequent poverty of the Exchequer, formed the staple of the debate; and the theories of Messrs. Gladstone and Wilson, while ably stated, were as quickly demolished when they became to be investigated. "A loan in masquerade," as Mr. Disraeli aptly described the late Exchequer-bond negotiation, is now to be perfected through the further issue of these securities, although the early attempts to initiate them into favour have signally failed. It is evident that Mr. Gladstone, backed as he is by the recorded vote of the majority of the House of Commons, will persist in forcing to a conclusion his impracticable financial notions, despite the warnings of cooler and clearer heads than his own.

"Save me from my friends!" he may, however, well exclaim, when he finds that Mr. Laing, in supporting his Exchequer-bond scheme, virtually twits him with improvidence in not sooner confessing his mistake relative to the result of the South Sea conversion, and delaying measures to protect his unfortunate

position. But we are not sure that the theory which that gentleman propounds will apply to the Government proposition. Railway-bonds and debentures pay a higher rate of interest than our national securities, and the confidence the public place in the principal corporations induce them to invest largely in them. The Government, before they can well expect to come into active competition with these undertakings as borrowers, must make a considerable advance in their rate of interest. Who will prefer an Exchequer-bond at 4 per cent., to a London and North Western, Great Western, Great Northern or South Western at 5 per cent.? Very few individuals, we should imagine, except those of the old school, whose prejudices are still favourable to the superior security presented by national credit.

After all his success in Parliament, the opinion of the House being with him, Mr. Gladstone will yet discover that the state of the money-market will continue to interfere with his arrangements, and that he will have to make greater sacrifices before he can surmount his financial difficulties. The votes on the debate do not determine the relative merits of the principles laid down, because it having been really viewed as a Government question of confidence, the opposition failed to enlist the sympathies of many who, under other circumstances, might have been led to dissent from the plans so pertinaciously persisted in by the Chancellor of the Exchequer. We regret to perceive that anything like a political bearing was given to the proceedings; the manifestation of party spirit at all times lessening the weight of arguments so introduced, and it would have been much better had there been less formality in the way in which they were conducted. The Government, however, have secured the sanction of the House of Commons to the whole of their financial measures, and we shall wait patiently for the further effects of their development. The resolutions agreed to are as follows—

"1. That the Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury be authorised to issue Exchequer-bonds bearing interest at the rate of £3 10s. per centum per annum, for any sums not exceeding in the whole £4,000,000, at any prices and on any terms determined upon by the said commissioners, such bonds to be paid off at par at the expiration of any period or periods not exceeding six years from the date of such bonds.

"2. The interest for all such Exchequer-bonds shall be payable half-yearly, and shall be charged upon and issued out of the growing produce of the Consolidated Fund of the united kingdom.

"3. That in case the said Exchequer-bonds be not issued for the full sum of £4,000,000, as hereinbefore mentioned, then the Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury be authorised to issue Exchequer-bills to such amount as, with the total amount for which such bonds shall be issued, will make up the whole sum of £4,000,000 authorised to be raised by these resolutions."

MR. GLADSTONE AND THE "STAGS."

EVEN the highest functionaries, it appears, cannot escape from the manœuvres of the outside class of operators at the Stock Exchange, formerly known as the "little go" dealers, but more modernly designated "stags." Since the decadence of the Australian and Californian gold mining mania, which, while it existed, afforded them considerable scope for their transactions, they have been comparatively without business, except the occasional "waifs and strays" furnished by the appearance of a fugitive adventure, resulting in limited profits scarcely sufficient to keep the wolf from the door. With wits sharpened by such untoward circumstances, they have not hesitated to avail themselves of the opportunity presented by the announcement of Mr. Gladstone's tenders for Exchequer-bonds, to bring into play their peculiar practices, and it must be confessed with some show of success.

The arrangements made for the receipt of applications for the first £2,000,000, were not as stringent as they might have been, no deposit being immediately required as a guarantee of the power of the party applying to assume the responsibility he proposed to accept. Some say that this arose from a desire on the behalf of the Chancellor not to create a premature disturbance of the money market; others, through the absence of that official regularity which should have been observed in the adjustment of the preliminaries of so important a transaction. To whose score the blame is rightly attributable it is not necessary now to enquire. The fact itself is apparent. This omission, therefore, enabled the "stags" to put in numerous tenders, and letters from the Bank of England, with the veritable signature of Matthew Marshall, chief cashier, were received in answer to the extent of £341,000. If confirmation of the veracity of this statement be required, it is only requisite to refer to the official return published by the Government.

With the letters of appropriation so obtained—the amount of Exchequer-bonds ranging in each case from £1,000 to £5,000—a market was speedily organised among the fraternity, and the current quotation was 1s. per £1,000. Ridiculous as it may seem, there was an active business transacted at this quotation, but it is far from probable that the whole quantity found purchasers. Many letters were bought merely as curiosities—illustrative of the events of the day, while financial opponents of the administration secured them as trophies of a victory gained by Capel-court over Downing-street. Whatever may have been the amount realised by this class of dealers from the operations thus carried out, the sum taken at half or quarter of the ordinary calculation will have placed them in a much more favourable pecuniary position than they have latterly enjoyed.

Supporters of the Government have accused the authorities at the bank of a want of vigilance in selecting the proper class of applicants. It is asserted that they must have been aware, from the addresses and descriptions of the individuals, that they were needy adventurers, seeking either to impede the success of the transaction, or intending to traffic in the letters for casual profit. In this respect the complaints

are altogether unfounded. The notice from the Treasury as to the course to be pursued in connexion with the receipt of tenders was thoroughly simple, and the directors were bound to follow the instructions of Government. When the tenders were received, the only system to be observed was that which was taken, viz., to make the appropriation in accordance with the request of the party tendering. Having done this, the bank authorities are absolved from any charge of negligence in the transaction.

It would have been a different case had the tenders reached an amount largely in excess of the Government demand; then perhaps there would have been ample reason for making a selection, but it was quite the reverse; they came forward so slowly that great difficulty was experienced in filling up the list, and, at the latest moment, every straggler was cheerfully hailed as an adherent to the cause.

STAMP DUTY ON BILLS OF EXCHANGE AND PROMISSORY NOTES, AND FOREIGN BILLS OF EXCHANGE.

THE proposed alterations in the stamp duties on bills of exchange effect several desirable objects. First, the amount of the stamp duty is considerably reduced on all amounts under £500. Thus a bill of exchange or promissory note for £25, which now pays a stamp duty of 2s. 6d., will, according to the new scale, pay only 3d. Second, the scale is much simplified. Third, the distinction between long and short dates is abolished.

With regard to the imposition of a stamp duty on foreign bills of exchange, it will have the effect of preventing the mercantile frauds lately perpetrated by drawing bills of exchange in London, dating them abroad, and then resisting payment on the ground that they are, in truth, unstamped inland bills.

We are not sure that the law recently propounded in the Court of Bankruptcy on this subject is perfectly sound. There is a decision the other way in the Court of Exchequer. But the question is too important to be suffered to remain in doubt. The introduction of the adhesive stamp seems to us to remove all practical difficulty which may have hitherto existed. The stamp is to be affixed before the bill is circulated or paid in this country.

The following are the resolutions :—

1. That from and after the day of , 1854, in lieu of the stamp duties now payable on the bills of exchange, drafts or orders, and promissory notes, for the payment of money hereinafter mentioned, or any of them, there shall be granted and paid upon the several bills, drafts or orders and promissory notes, hereinafter respectively described, the following stamp duties (that is to say) :—

Inland bill of exchange, draft or order for the payment to the bearer or to

order, at any time otherwise than demand, of any sum of money not exceeding £25, 3d.; not exceeding £50, 6d.; not exceeding £75, 9d.; not exceeding £100, 1s.; not exceeding £200, 2s.; not exceeding £300, 3s.; not exceeding £400, 4s.; not exceeding £500, 5s.; not exceeding £750, 7s. 6d.; not exceeding £1,000, 10s.; not exceeding £1,500, 15s.; not exceeding £2,000, £1; not exceeding £3,000, £1 10s.; not exceeding £4,000, £2; exceeding £4,000 and upwards, £2 5s.

Foreign bill of exchange, drawn in but payable out of the United Kingdom, if drawn singly, and not in sets of more than two, the same duty as on an inland bill of the same amount and tenor. If drawn in sets of three or more, for every bill of each set, where the sum payable does not exceed £25, 1d.; not exceed £50, 2d.; not exceed £75, 3d.; not exceed £100, 4d.; not exceed £200, 8d.; not exceed £300, 1s.; not exceed £400, 1s. 4d.; not exceed £500, 1s. 8d.; not exceed £750, 2s. 6d.; not exceed £1,000, 3s. 4d.; not exceed £1,500, 5s.; not exceed £2,000, 6s. 8d.; not exceed £3,000, 10s.; not exceed £4,000, 13s. 4d.; exceeding £4,000 and upwards, 15s.

Foreign bill of exchange, drawn out of the United Kingdom, and payable within the United Kingdom, the same duty as on an inland bill of the same amount and tenor.

Foreign bill of exchange, drawn out of the United Kingdom, and payable out of the United Kingdom, but endorsed or negotiated within the United Kingdom, the same duty as on a foreign bill, drawn within the United Kingdom, and payable out of the United Kingdom.

Promissory note, for the payment, in any other manner than to the bearer on demand, of any sum of money, not exceeding £25, 3d.; not exceeding £50, 6d.; not exceeding £75, 9d.; not exceeding £100, 1s.

Promissory note, for the payment, either to the bearer on demand, or in any other manner than to the bearer on demand, of any sum of money exceeding £100 and not exceeding £200, 2s.; not exceeding £300, 3s.; not exceeding £400, 4s.; not exceeding £500, 5s.; not exceeding £750, 7s. 6d.; not exceeding £1,000, 10s.; not exceeding £1,500, 15s.; not exceeding £2,000, £1; not exceeding £3,000, £1 10s.; not exceeding £4,000, £2; exceeding £4,000 and upwards, £2 5s.

NEW GOLD DISCOVERIES.

AUSTRALIA and California are accredited English and American gold colonies. The continuous exports from these places establish their power of production, and it is generally believed that no diminution is likely to occur for years to come. With an addition of from £25,000,000 to £30,000,000 in the annual increase of the supply of the chief of the precious metals, it may reasonably be supposed that the basis of our mercantile transactions has been considerably enlarged.

But, although this is the case, the rapidity of the absorption of any augmentation of the general stock exhibits in the most remarkable manner the elasticity of our commercial relations, which apparently only require the acquisition of additional wealth to extend even in a wider sphere the trading markets of the world.

The cry of gold in England, latterly so industriously circulated to promote mining adventure and excite speculation in Wales, has for the moment subsided, now that it is found that the process of obtaining it is more expensive and less expeditious than was formerly supposed, the

caution inspired by the failure of practical attempts assisting to dispel previously exaggerated theories.

The working of gold quartz in Australia or California has not been at present, attended with much better success; and, although statements are periodically published by some of the companies, showing that progress is making in bringing the machinery to bear, the public are now really tired of waiting for the promised result. The whole of the large supplies hitherto obtained from these countries have come from the diggings, alluvial or deep working, and in no instance is it recorded that any considerable amount has been produced from the quartz veins traceable in the different districts. Indeed, such is the disappointment occasioned after the *data* originally furnished, that one of two reasons must be accepted as explanatory of the cause of failure: either the machinery has not yet attained the necessary perfection, or the veins themselves do not contain the proportion of gold represented by the published assays.

If the source of supply is not to be largely increased by the development of quartz-rock mining, hope is still entertained that other unexplored fields will contribute to swell the general total. Ceylon and the Orange River Sovereignty at the Cape of Good Hope have been recently mentioned as localities in which gold has been discovered to exist. The reports have come before the public in a most substantial form, and a few weeks will serve to prove the accuracy of the accounts. Although there is evidently an attempt to discourage the impression that the yield will be insufficient to remunerate those who engage in the occupation, the admission of the presence of the precious metal is a satisfactory feature. Everybody will remember that during the early period of the discoveries in Australia a similar feeling was manifested, the prejudices of resident interests causing a studied effort to conceal the real position of affairs. It was impossible, however, to evade the truth long, the shipments themselves speaking most powerfully on the subject.

Should Ceylon and the Orange River, as connected with or closely situated near British dependencies, aid by a supply of gold the already enormously increased resources of England, a further impetus will be given to her trade and manufactures, in a measure equal to that which has been witnessed since 1851 at the Antipodes. Emigration, as a matter of course, will simultaneously take place, but only to support, by consumptive power and production, the closer relations with the mother country.

The last advices from Australia allude to the exploration of fresh localities, both in Victoria and New South Wales, in which the miners were gaining large rewards. Singularly enough, at the same time, others have left for the Pacific, several vessels having sailed thither, the reputed riches of the Amazon and its tributaries having attracted their attention. The general search for gold promises to be extensively adopted and if not in these especial instances directly successful, it must lead to some description of permanent benefit

ADVANCE IN THE BANK RATE OF DISCOUNT.

THE Bank directors have again been compelled to make an advance in the rate of discount. From 5 per cent. they have gone to $5\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., the announcement respecting the latter movement having been made on the 11th of May. The policy of the measure has not been doubted, because the state of the Eastern and foreign exchanges, together with the continuous drain of bullion, has latterly so materially affected the position of the national establishment that the temporary restriction was positively required.

The apprehensions excited in connection with a lengthened period of hostilities in the East, have tended in a measure to curtail trade, and hence it may have been reasonably supposed that the demand for accommodation would have been partially checked; but in the absence of that full commercial activity, which would undoubtedly have been experienced had the Turco-Russian question been amicably adjusted, a lapse has occurred in Australian remittances, accounting, therefore, in some degree, for the alteration in the general relations of the money market.

It will also be remembered that we have had, at the same time, a French loan for £10,000,000, and an attempted negotiation for the issue of a considerable amount of Exchequer-bonds by our own Government. These are events which could not be disregarded, and the circumstance that the latest operation has not proved successful, shows that capitalists and others possessing available means are not desirous of immediately surrendering the command of their resources, although the temptation of a secured 4 per cent. has been held out to them. Annexed are the variations which have taken place in the bank's rate of money during the last five years:—

BANK OF ENGLAND MINIMUM RATE OF DISCOUNT.

1849	...	...	On November 22	...	...	$2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.
1850	...	...	„ December 26	...	...	3 „
1852	...	...	„ January 1	...	...	$2\frac{1}{2}$ „
„	...	...	„ April 22	...	...	2 „
1853	...	...	„ January 6	...	...	$2\frac{1}{2}$ „
„	...	...	„ „ 20	...	...	3 „
„	...	...	„ June 2	...	...	$3\frac{1}{2}$ „
„	...	...	„ September 1	...	...	4 „
„	...	...	„ „ 15	...	...	$4\frac{1}{2}$ „
„	...	...	„ „ 29	...	...	5 „
1854	...	...	„ May 11	...	...	$5\frac{1}{2}$ „

The opinions of our daily contemporaries generally coincide

with regard to the prudence of the course adopted, *The Times* remarking on the question as follows :—

The Bank of England to-day have raised their rate of discount from 5 per cent., at which it had stood since the 29th of September, to 5½ per cent. This measure would have been fully anticipated but for the favourable turn observable during the past week in the foreign exchanges, coupled with the impression, which has this afternoon been realised, that the Bank of France were about to reduce their rate to 4 per cent. Although, under these circumstances, it took the public in some degree by surprise, no question is raised as to the propriety of the step, and the general relations of trade are still so healthy that it has not awakened apprehension in any quarter. Instead of the movement being regarded as premature by those who have watched the efflux of bullion since September, it is seen that an unusual delay has been practised. While the drain of gold during the past sixteen months has been to the extent of £7,611,736, and the attempt to arrest it has caused six alterations of a half per cent. each in the rate of discount, nearly £3,000,000 of the loss has occurred subsequently to the last advance. The public, therefore, after noticing the conditions which had necessitated the preceding alterations, had every cause to be prepared for an additional one, and the sole reason for its not having been adopted at an earlier date would appear to consist in the fact that, owing to the contraction of business consequent on the war, a large diminution of the circulation has been compatible with only a moderate increase in the demand for money. It is true that all the considerations that could warrant a fresh movement to-day, existed apparently in greater force a week or two ago; but it is not upon a question of a fortnight, one way or the other, that the policy of the measure turns. It has been believed for some time to have been under serious discussion, and the presumption may be entertained that the latest signs with regard to the stock of bullion, and the applications for accommodation, have been such as to influence the decision now arrived at. Unless some decided check to the drain had become manifest, further hesitation could not have been justified by the recent improvement in the foreign exchanges, which may prove as transient as that which occurred a few weeks back. It is also to be borne in mind that the late large arrivals of grain have failed to produce any very serious depression on the corn market, and that the country is wholly in the dark as to what will yet be required before the harvest, while, at the same time, the last telegraphic quotations by the overland mail show that the Eastern exchanges are still far from satisfactory. Hence, although there is ground for anticipating that a more favourable, instead of a more adverse state of affairs, may be at hand, there are too many elements of uncertainty in the immediate future to render it desirable that any precautions should be neglected.

The Morning Chronicle, on the same question, observes :—

The uncertainty which has for the last fortnight or three weeks existed as to whether the directors would raise the rate of discount, has

at length been solved by the announcement made this afternoon, after the usual weekly board meeting, that until further orders the minimum rate of discount on commercial bills of exchange will be $5\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. This is a rise of $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., the rate having been 5 per cent. since the 29th September, 1853. The directors have thus acted in continuation of their policy commenced the 6th January last year, when they began to put up the rate $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. at a time. The state of the bank returns for the last few weeks had caused a very general expectation that the directors, in order to check the drain upon its metallic resources and the reserve of notes, would soon have to make a change in the rate of interest. As we observed on a late occasion, its assets were weekly experiencing a severe diminution, and its general position as a banking institution was becoming more and more a source of interest and uneasiness, which required some action to check the one and restore the other to a safe condition. The exports of gold, coin and bullion to the continent, have, for some time past, been very heavy, and the arrivals from Australia, the Pacific and the United States have, at the same time, been insufficient to make up for the outward drain. Money out of doors was becoming less and less plentiful, and, notwithstanding the contraction in trade, the demand for discount kept good. This slightly increased the tightness of the market, as we had on several occasions to notice, and, finally, there was a very general indisposition manifested on the part of capitalists to part with their money. On the contrary, sales of first-class securities became more frequent, but the amount placed on the market did not prove large, owing to the difficulty experienced in finding buyers. The rates of interest gradually approached a degree of stiffness which manifested the expectation of greater stringency. The London and North Western Railway Company began to issue debentures for three years, bearing 5 per cent. interest, evidently in anticipation of the rates going higher, and the Great Western and some other debentures were offered for sale at prices to pay $5\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. for three and four years to come. All these movements, however, were very gradual in their progress, and silent in their operation. Consequently, no unnecessary or injurious uneasiness was produced. Money on deposit, for long periods, was freely taken by the discount brokers and banking establishments at the current rate of interest; and last week it became apparent that, from the unsatisfactory state of the bank returns, an advance in the rate was likely to be made. The bank was fully expected to raise the rate of discount on Thursday last, and was only prevented, it was said, by a majority of one from doing so. It was then thought that the measure could not be deferred later than the present week. This impression has in general been maintained, although not on the Stock Exchange, as, from loans and sales of stock, the reserve of notes it was supposed had been sufficiently augmented to render it not absolutely necessary for such a step being taken. This impression was still entertained this morning until a little before 12 o'clock, when some intimation appears to have been given which rendered it certain that the anticipated alteration was to be made this afternoon. The effect of raising the rate has been to enhance the

value of money generally, but it does not appear to have interfered very much with business in any other shape or way. Its ulterior influence will, however, place a permanent check on whatever speculation there was a disposition to encourage, as well as on the general course of trade, but nevertheless not to any material extent. The merchants will have to pay a little more in the shape of discount, but then business is not likely to suffer any great derangement. This will become manifest when it is remembered in how healthy and sound a state trade has been throughout the last few years, and the last few months especially. Nothing could have come more opportune at the present moment than the issue of the returns relating to trade for the month of March last, a *resumé* of which appeared in *The Morning Chronicle* of the 8th instant. They showed that the exports of our domestic goods and manufactures, during that period, had been to the unprecedented extent of £10,042,754, being an increase of £2,155,521 over the shipments of February, an increase of £3,642,339 over January, and an aggregate increase over every other month of the two previous years of from £2,500,000 to £3,000,000. This discloses remarkable confidence amongst the trading community; and although of course much of these goods have to be paid for, a large portion has already been settled. But it is important to direct attention to the fact that, notwithstanding the unsettled state of affairs on the continent for the last fifteen months, and the numerous and prolonged strikes amongst the working classes of this country, with higher rates of interest than have been current for some years, there has been remarkable and unexampled activity in business, with unusually large profits, whilst the prices of the funded and other securities have not been unduly depressed. The cause of the present advance in the rate of interest has reference entirely to the position of the Bank of England itself, as shown in its weekly returns, to the unfavourable character of which we have had to call public attention on several occasions of late. So far as the aspect of general affairs is concerned, there was manifestly more occasion for the bank to raise the rate some three weeks or a month ago than now. The foreign exchanges were then more unfavourable than they are now, and there was every prospect of their becoming better without the intervention of the present action of the bank. That the directors did not raise the rate before, must therefore be ascribed to their desire to let the Chancellor of the Exchequer effect his financial operations and obtain money on easier terms than he could now hope for. The state of the bank returns being so unquestionably bad, the directors will be exempt from any reproach of having interfered unduly with monetary affairs generally. Their position was such that, after selling and making loans of stock, there remained to them no other course than to raise the rate of interest. It is generally considered that the present is likely to be a permanent quotation, and therefore it will not have any very unfavourable influence.

The Morning Herald says:—

The view we took of the probable course that would be adopted by

the directors of the Bank of England, now more than a week ago, has been fully borne out by the advance made to-day in the minimum rate of interest, which is now $5\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. per annum. Indeed, it has been evident for several weeks past, that such a step as that which has been taken was absolutely necessary to check the rapid diminution of the bullion held by the bank, in consequence of the drain that has, until now, prevailed for the continent, although it was the opinion of a large number of persons this morning that the improvement which has taken place in the rate of exchange on Paris this week, and the consequent running off of the profits on specie remittances thither, and the assumption that the money raised by the Chancellor of the Exchequer upon his Bonds would tend to relieve the bank, would render the advance of the minimum rate a matter for further consideration by the bank authorities. These assumptions and conjectures have been set at rest by the announcement of the bank directors, and many persons appear to have been taken by surprise. Of course, until the return of the bank movement for the week ending on Saturday last appears in to-morrow's *Gazette*, the precise grounds upon which the bank authorities decided to make the advance to-day cannot be known; but it is alleged that the amount of mercantile paper offered for discount has very largely and rapidly increased, so much so, that without there being any particular tendency to speculation necessary to check in any department of trade, the bank would at this juncture find it a matter of some difficulty to afford the requisite accommodation, if the demand continued in the same ratio. It is probable, however, that if the rate of interest in Paris should be reduced, as it has been intimated is likely, the present advance of $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. may prove sufficient to secure the object of the bank directors, without giving the "screw" another turn. Under present circumstances, it is quite useless to enter into speculations upon the course of events, as the war acts as a disturbing influence in so many ways, that it is almost impossible to arrive at correct conclusions from day to day. The immediate effect of the advance in the bank's minimum rate of interest, was to cause a rapid decline of about $1\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. in the value of the Consols. So confident were the speculators for the rise in prices that no immediate change was contemplated, and so alarmed were the "Bear" party, that in consequence of the purchases by the latter to close accounts, Consols for money touched $88\frac{1}{2}$, and for the June account $88\frac{1}{2}$, showing a "backwardation" in the early part of the day of nearly $\frac{1}{4}$ per cent. Upon considerable sales of money stock being made, it is understood on behalf of the bank, which were followed at a later period by the announcement of the advance in the minimum rate of interest, the character of the account was changed, and a slight "continuation" was paid; and Consols, after having been done for money at $88\frac{1}{2}$ $\frac{1}{2}$ $\frac{1}{2}$ $\frac{1}{2}$ $87\frac{1}{2}$ and $\frac{1}{2}$, left off at $87\frac{1}{2}$ $\frac{1}{2}$.

The writer of the *Daily News* remarks:—

The Bank of England directors, at their weekly meeting to-day, after a protracted sitting, raised the minimum rate of discount from 5 to $5\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. This step will not take the readers of the *Daily News*

by surprise. For many months we have felt it our duty to draw especial attention to the influences in operation upon the money market—including the approach of the war now realised, the partial failure of the harvest, the accompanying drain of gold, and other causes—from a continuation of which we deduced the inevitable inference that, under the working of our present currency system the value of money must rise. It was mentioned last week that the delay of the bank in adopting the step was probably prompted in some measure by its unwillingness to prejudice the Government loan operation, then pending, and for the last two or three weeks the announcement of a rise in the discount rate has been looked for as the result of each succeeding meeting of the directors. Public opinion having thus anticipated the chance, it cannot be said that the event of to-day has given rise to much surprise amongst the mercantile community, although there was certainly an impression in many quarters that no movement on the part of the bank having taken place some days back when the efflux of gold was serious, the step would be deferred for some little time now that the exchanges have at length assumed a less unfavourable appearance, and in view of the expectation of a reduction in the rate of discount by the Bank of France. This latter event was announced as having actually taken place to-day, telegraphic despatches received from Paris this afternoon reporting that the bank has reduced its rate to 4 per cent. This contradictory movement of the two establishments is regarded as sufficiently singular. It is obvious that the combined action of both banks is calculated to render the exchanges more favourable to this country, the question of interest being now, to what extent will the exchanges be beneficially effected, and for how long a period will the alteration in the relative value of money in the two markets suffice to prevent the efflux of gold from this side? The Lombard-street discount houses, consequent upon the bank movement, have raised the rate allowed for money on call to $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. In Lombard-street and elsewhere the current rates of discount have of late been fully equal to those of the Bank of England, and a good demand for mercantile accommodation has been experienced. Under these circumstances, there is every probability that the rates of discount in the open market will be soon adjusted in proportion to the enhanced charges of the Bank of England. The Board of Trade returns exhibit an amount of commercial movement which must evidently cause an extensive and sustained demand for money, and this at a time when the stock of gold, which forms the basis of the national currency, is materially diminished.

With respect to the same subject, the *Morning Post* observes :—

Considerable excitement has existed during the day in the moneyed circles of the city, and the fluctuations in Consols have proved unusually heavy. After opening at $88\frac{1}{2}$, they advanced to $88\frac{3}{8}$, with the prospect of a further rise, since the information—financially considered—coming from Paris and other parts of the continent, was regarded as favourable. At the weekly board meeting of the Bank of England

held this morning, however, it was resolved to increase the interest charge of the establishment from 5 per cent. to $5\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. per annum, and Consols receded in consequence to $87\frac{3}{4}$ to $88\frac{1}{4}$ for money and for account (June 6). The after-hours' quotation was no more than about $87\frac{1}{2}$; but, even so, the market may be said to have been exceedingly well sustained under the circumstances noticed. 3 per Cent. Reduced Stock left off $86\frac{3}{4}$ to 87 ; the $3\frac{1}{4}$ per Cents., $87\frac{3}{4}$ to 8; Long Annuities (1860), $4\frac{1}{2}$; India Stock, 234 to 6; India Bonds, 15s. to 10s. dis.; Exchequer Bills, 2s. dis. to 2s. prem. The settlement of the account seems to have passed over satisfactorily. The differences arising upon the speculative operations of the month, which must have been large, have been met with the accustomed punctuality. Stock was less scarce than it had been, owing probably to some extensive sales effected for account, as it was understood, of a large banking institution. The advices from Paris communicate the fact, that the Bank of France had lowered its rate of interest by $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.—a measure that was naturally followed by another rise in the value of the *rentes* to the extent of about 40 centimes, the 3 per Cents. being quoted to-day 66.60 for money. The large importations of gold and silver appear to have placed the Bank of France in an extremely easy position, and the proportionately heavy draughts on the metallic reserves of the Bank of England, may sufficiently account for the contrary course of action taken by the latter institution. The treasure of the bank was so rapidly disappearing that the step taken by the directors to-day is considered by intelligent moneyed authorities, not to have been so taken a moment too soon. The financial exigencies appertaining to a state of war will necessarily be very large; but the extent of them being uncertain, precautionary measures on the part of an establishment like the Bank of England become imperative. It is unfortunate that an unfavourable exchange should be experienced at a moment when Government has financial operations on hand. The bank directors would be guilty of a dereliction of their duty, not towards their proprietary alone, but towards the country at large, were they to allow a drain of the precious metals to take place in consequence of this unfavourable exchange, for any length of time, without applying the necessary corrective; but should Mr. Gladstone experience inconvenience on this account, he has only himself to thank for the circumstance, inasmuch as it is a state of affairs that he has actually courted. Had he taken the opinion of sound banking authorities, as to the expediency or in expediency of redeeming South Sea Annuities, at the time his announcement on that subject was made, we may be quite sure that the measure would have been strongly discouraged. A more ill-timed and ill-judged scheme could not have been thought of; but, as the country pays a heavy penalty, it does not follow that the Bank of England is to suffer another, in the withdrawal from the corporation of the confidence of the public, and the forfeiture of its prerogatives, such as men like Mr. Pitt and Mr. Canning have thought it useful to uphold, and on a scale much more extensive, too, than that to which they have been reduced through the economising influences of recent times. The bank may probably listen without any

well-founded apprehension to the threats held out to them by the advocates of Mr. Gladstone's extraordinary policy—a policy so far losing and unsuccessful in the extreme, as well as embarrassing in its results from beginning to end. The Government will have some troublesome accounts to settle with the Bank of England, before it can be superseded to the satisfaction of the country by a national substitute, which would certainly acquire little credit, unless its affairs should be directed by a more competent head than that of its proposed founder.

THE ISSUE OF EXCHEQUER-BONDS.

It will be recollected that when proposals were first issued by Mr. Gladstone for the negotiation of £6,000,000 of Exchequer-bonds, the period allowed for subscriptions was the 2nd of May. The amount of tenders then received having been altogether insignificant, the Chancellor of the Exchequer extended the term to the 8th of May, stating the Government *minimum* price to be 98½. Even when this announcement was made the subscriptions did not rapidly increase, and it was with difficulty that in the interim the list for the first series was filled. Although every endeavour has been exerted to promote the popularity of these securities, it appears that the public are not at present inclined to accept them to any great extent. The following official return presented to Parliament details the progress and result of the operation.

Return to an order of the Honourable House of Commons, dated 12th May, 1854, for an account “showing the amount subscribed for the Exchequer-bonds, described as Bonds A, payable at par on the 8th day of May, 1858; on Bonds B, ending the 8th day of May, 1859; and on Bonds C, ending the 8th day of May, 1860, up to and including the 8th instant; distinguishing the amount payable in money and that payable in Exchequer-bills; showing on what amount the deposit was paid, and the amount on which deposit has not been paid:”—

The amount accepted on the opening of the tenders on 2nd May, at the Treasury Chambers, including £45,000 which had been tendered for Bonds B and C, which the parties transferred to Bonds A, on the option given to them on the day of tender						£602,300
The amount subsequently subscribed at the Bank of England up to and including the 8th May						1,205,900
						£1,801,200
On the whole of which, except £212,000, deposit was paid; the tenders for which sum of £212,000 were cancelled—deduct therefore						212,000
Amount on which deposit was paid ...						£1,596,200

Of which there was tendered in Exche-					
quer-bills	...	...	...	...	£590,800
Money	...	...	...	...	1,005,400
					<u>£1,596,200</u>
Further tenders, amounting to £403,800, were made on					
9th May, which await the pleasure of Parliament					403,800
					<u>£2,000,000</u>

Amount of subscriptions accepted for Bonds B, ending on 8th May, 1859, and for Bonds C, ending on the 8th May, 1860 :—

The amount of Bonds B accepted on the 2nd May, on		
which day the subscriptions were closed, was	...	£15,000
The amount of Bonds C accepted on the 2nd May, on		
which day the subscriptions were closed, was	...	59,500
		<u>£74,500</u>
Out of this amount the parties transferred their subscrip-		
tions to Bonds A, under the option given to them on the		
2nd May, the day of tender	...	45,500
		<u>£29,000</u>

On this amount of £29,000 no deposit has been paid, and the tenders are cancelled.

JAMES WILSON.

Whitehall Treasury Chambers,
12th May, 1854.

The opinions of the press on this transaction will be useful for reference, as showing the views entertained by the respective writers, and the effect produced upon the market.

The City editor of *The Times* remarked :—

The first positive announcement this morning (the 3rd of May) regarding the result of the proposals for the £6,000,000 of Exchequer-bonds was in the shape of a notice from the Treasury, that the required amount of the first series of £2,000,000 had not been subscribed, and that applications would be received at the bank from persons desirous of taking at the *minimum* price of 98 $\frac{1}{2}$ the balance that remained of that portion. The precise amount of the tenders that had been accepted was not stated, but it was known to be moderate even for the first series, while for the two remaining series of £2,000,000 each, maturing respectively in five and six years, it was very small. Immediately, however, on the notification of the price at which the remainder of the first series could be obtained a considerable desire to

subscribe was manifested both by capitalists and the public generally; and, although the books were open only for a short period, it was ultimately believed that nearly the whole of the £2,000,000 had been taken, and the certainty appeared to be entertained that shortly after ten o'clock to-morrow morning, when they will be re-opened, the total will be completed. The point remains to be ascertained if, upon the completion of the first series, the additional £4,000,000 will be put forward in a similar manner by the announcement of a *minimum* price, and it would have been expedient if this information had been given to-day. As it is unlikely that any Exchequer-bills will be sent in for the £2,000,000 now in course of subscription, and the Chancellor of the Exchequer will consequently receive cash to that extent, doubt is expressed in some quarters as to any further sums being intended to be raised at present. Others are disposed to anticipate that the original £2,000,000 may perhaps be augmented to £3,000,000, and that this will be deemed sufficient. With regard to the security itself becoming appreciated according to its actual convenience and value, the prospects in its favour would be increased instead of diminished by the issue of the full amount originally contemplated, so as to make them more familiar. It is said that among the offers received the lowest was at 98 and the highest at 100½. The absence of subscribers, therefore, does not appear to be attributable to any material difference between the views of capitalists and those of the Chancellor of the Exchequer as regards terms, but rather from inaptitude or dislike on the part of the public to enter into affairs of this sort by the method of secret tender. This conclusion, indeed, is established by the readiness with which subscriptions were sent in as soon as the *minimum* price, which makes the rate of interest equal to 4 per cent., was openly made known, and hence every unsatisfactory feature of the affair is explained and removed. Early in the day there was a disposition on the part of those who have been engaged in speculative sales of stock to congratulate themselves on the public misfortune of the loan having failed. When, however, it seemed to become evident that the public were really willing to subscribe at the Chancellor of the Exchequer's price, and had simply abstained from fixing that price for themselves, because each individual was averse to the risk of finding his estimate higher than that of his neighbours, it was seen that these gloomy assumptions were premature, and Consols, which had fallen considerably on the appearance of the Treasury announcement, experienced at once a favourable reaction. Subjoined is the Treasury notice:—

“The First Lord of the Treasury and the Chancellor of the Exchequer hereby give notice that subscriptions will be received daily at the Bank of England, between the hours of ten o'clock a.m. and two o'clock p.m., up to and including the 8th of May instant, until such subscriptions shall complete the specified sum of £2,000,000, from such persons as shall be desirous of subscribing at the reserved sealed price which has been fixed for such bonds—that is, at £98 15s. for each £100 of such bonds, for the Exchequer-bonds described in the notice of the 21st of April as Bonds A, payable at par on the 8th of May,

1858, subject to the conditions as to the payment of the deposit and the instalments which are set forth in the notice of the 21st of April above referred to.

“Downing-street, May 2.”

The writer in the *Daily News* observed:—

Much anxiety was expressed this morning to learn the result of Mr. Gladstone's attempt to raise £6,000,000 in Exchequer-bonds, and for some time business in the Stock Exchange was much impeded by the prevalent uncertainty. The appearance of the Government notice implies another change of plan on the part of the Chancellor of the Exchequer. It is understood that the applications for the several series of Exchequer-bonds were very few, and for a comparatively small amount, and that the terms proposed in the tenders were not such as Government are disposed to accept. Finding that his first proposals are unattended with success, the Chancellor of the Exchequer now puts altogether on one side for the present the second and third series of Exchequer-bonds, of £2,000,000 each, and simply invites subscriptions from the public at 98½ per cent. for the A series of £2,000,000, redeemable at par in 1858. It is regarded as somewhat disingenuous that Mr. Gladstone, in this fresh notice, does not afford due information by frankly admitting the withdrawal (for the present, at least) of the other two series of bonds. The price of 98½ per cent. which Government are willing to accept for the A series is regarded as somewhat tempting to a certain class of capitalists, inasmuch as it shows a net annual yield of about 4 per cent., including the discount allowed. Had Mr. Gladstone made a similarly favourable and direct proposal at first, the entire £6,000,000 would probably have been taken up, as the success or failure of the attempt was purely a question of terms. It is believed that the Chancellor will hold the remaining two series of bonds in reserve, and perhaps issue them in a similar manner as the necessities of the national service require, if he finds the money forthcoming at the proposed rates. Any bargain which he may make, however, if favourable to subscribers, is proportionately adverse to the State.

With regard to the general result of the operation, *The Morning Herald* commented as follows:—

The market for public securities has been depressed to-day, in consequence of the signal failure of the Chancellor of the Exchequer's scheme to raise money by an issue of Exchequer-bonds. We have taken occasion several times to point out the probable results of the last device, and the failure announced to-day shows how well our anticipations were founded. Upon the tenders being opened, it was found that the amount “bid” for was but £800,000 of bonds of the first series, to be paid off in 1858; whilst, with respect to the other series of bonds of 1859 and 1860, no offers were made. The failure is therefore as complete as would have satisfied any sane man, and have been taken as a proof that he was incompetent to manage the finances of the country. So far from such a conclusion being arrived at by Mr. Gladstone, he

has again tempted fate, and has extended the period for receiving tenders to the 8th instant. The tenders are, however, to be limited to the first series of bonds to the amount of £2,000,000. Whether Mr. Gladstone thinks he has not "puffed" his wares sufficiently; whether he means to discover more "bonuses," or whether he believes that the announcement of his minimum being 98 $\frac{3}{4}$ will make the public rush with eagerness to take his precious securities, is not material, it being unquestionable that he has again blundered most egregiously. Unless, however, some means are devised to remedy the inconveniences of the Exchequer-bond system, or that such terms are proposed as will make it worth while to endure them, the second attempt will not be more successful than that which has already been treated so contemptuously by the monetary interest. Were it not for the intense conceit of Mr. Gladstone, which leads him to set up his opinion against that of all practical authorities, and attempt to compel others to coincide with his crotchets, these repeated failures and abortions would perhaps elicit something like compassion: but, go where you may, the feeling is rather that of satisfaction that he has again failed. The expectation is, that by this last blunder he will have so disgusted his friends that he, at least, will be compelled to resign his post immediately, and the rest of the Ministry must soon follow as a natural consequence.

In connection with the question raised by the following letter, addressed to Mr. Gladstone, of the desirableness of registering these securities, to prevent casualties through loss, fire or otherwise, an intimation has been given that power was taken by the Treasury in the act of last year, authorising the creation of this description of security to make arrangements of the nature referred to, and that there is every disposition to afford a similar convenience in the case of the bonds lately introduced:—

"London, May 10, 1854.

"Sir,—I have this morning had an interview with several of the principal holders of the Exchequer-bonds, who have requested me to submit to you, and which I do equally on my own behalf, to allow the bonds at their option to be registered in their names in the books of the Bank of England, the same as other funded securities, and the holders to be allowed to reconvert the registered stock into bonds to bearer on payment of a small fee.

"This would be a great boon to trustees, foreigners, persons going abroad, the Court of Chancery, assignees and other public bodies. Such facilities would render the bonds a much more desirable investment, and be a strong inducement to the public to take any further issues, and would be an additional consideration to the holders to pay the bonds in full, inasmuch as they would then be free from all casualties, whether by loss, by fire, or otherwise."

THE SUPPLEMENTAL WAR BUDGET.

THE Chancellor of the Exchequer, on the 8th of May, introduced his supplemental financial statement to the consideration of Parliament, the voting of the increased army and navy estimates requiring the provision of the necessary funds to meet the augmented expenditure.

In opening his address, he said—Towards the end, sir, of the month of February her Majesty's Government found that it had been their duty to propose, and that the House had been pleased to sanction, such an addition to the expenditure of the country as would necessarily entail an addition to its taxation. It was also the view of the Government that that addition to the taxation, the necessity of which was then demonstrated, should be made in the form of doubling the first half-yearly payment of the income-tax. At that period war had not been declared, and it was entirely impossible for the Government to form any reasonable or trustworthy estimate of the expenses of the year upon a footing of war. It was impossible for them to judge at what precise time calculations connected with a state of things happily so novel to most of us would be complete, and they had to consider that the passing of the income tax and the doubling of the first half-yearly payment was a measure which, if it were to be treated at all, required to be treated at a very early period of the session, because the machinery of collection connected with that tax is so complex and laborious, and the time required in preparing it is so considerable that, unless the act passes at an early period of the session, the tax is thrown greatly into arrear; and not only so—but if the period of the financial statement should have been, unfortunately, late, many payments which ought to have been subjected to that tax would have escaped it altogether. It was under those circumstances, and likewise because they thought it to be the most constitutional course, that the Government even at that early date made application to the House for such funds as then appeared to them to be necessary; but they instructed me to state—and I obeyed the instruction—that the demand which was then made upon the representatives of the people was not a demand adequate to the requirements of the war, but that it was that demand, and that demand only, which we knew to be entailed by the fact that we had sent a certain expedition to the East; and that in the event of the realisation of that calamity which at that time we all apprehended—in the event, namely, of a declaration of war, and of the continuance of that war, upon which we now of course must calculate—it would be necessary for me again, on the part of the Government, to appeal to the House for an augmentation of the resources of the country. Sir, that duty I now rise to discharge; but before I discharge it, it is necessary, I think, for my honour, and it is necessary I am sure from the respect which I owe to this committee, that I should advert to accusations which have been made industriously enough, occasionally within these walls and likewise elsewhere, tending to prove both that the Government is liable to great discredit for the

manner in which it has dealt with the essential department of finance, and in particular that the person who now addresses you is totally unfit to be intrusted with the duties of that department.

There are, indeed, those who say that a period of war is not a time when questions of confidence should be entertained. Sir, to that I reply, even as regards an administration, still more as regards a minister, and most of all as regards the minister of finance, that a period of war is the very last when that important trust should be committed to hands that have been discredited in the view of this House and of the country. It is, therefore, my duty to advert to those accusations; and I am quite certain that those who hear me—whether or not they may agree in all the propositions I advance, and however largely it may be necessary for me to tax that indulgence which I know to be unbounded—I am quite certain, I say, that those who hear me will perceive that my honest purpose is to make them masters of the facts, as they have occurred, and, inasmuch as they are the persons ultimately responsible to the people for the management of the funds which are raised from their industry and capital, to place in their hands, so far as I am concerned, and as it is possible for me to do, all the means of forming a judgment upon those facts. It has been stated in the first instance, and, though these matters are retrospective, yet they have prospective bearings, and I hope, upon that account, that the committee will not grudge the time that may be required in stating and discussing them properly. The first charge the right hon. gentleman touched upon was that of having mismanaged the unfunded debt; that in the spring of last year, the interest of Exchequer-bills had been rashly lowered, causing a violent reaction, and that the rate of interest was now unusually low, the result having been a loss to the country. This charge, he observed, was a serious one, since the unfunded debt was a great resource in time of war. The operation was not hastily or thoughtlessly made, but deliberately; it was founded upon two principles—first, that the public were entitled to borrow money on the best terms; second, that, in order that the unfunded debt might be carried to the full height of its power in difficult times, it ought to be got within narrow limits in easy times.

Mr. Gladstone then entered into details, in order to show the soundness of the principles upon which the operation upon the interest of the unfunded debt had been made, and that a gain of £60,000, not a loss, had been the result. He disclaimed any idea of sheltering the Government policy behind the plea that this was a time of war, when such matters could not be discussed, and he demanded that Parliament should look into the subject, and either condemn or approve what he had done. Next, alluding to the attacks that had been made as to his treatment of the funded debt in the conversion scheme, he made reference to the language used at the time by Mr. Disraeli and other objectors, and he showed that none of their objections had proved valid, and the only one which had proved so was not taken, except by himself—namely, that the necessity of paying off non-assentient holders of South Sea stock would necessitate a considerable withdrawal of the national ba-

lances, and this had been affected in a larger degree than was convenient in war time. But it was easy to condemn after results, and now various gentlemen persuaded themselves that they had all along disapproved of the operation in question. But he admitted his regret that the transaction had taken place, though he did not allow that it had occasioned pecuniary loss. He next applied himself to the current misapprehension regarding the transactions between the Government and the bank, and showed that the compact of 1844 had not been violated in letter or spirit by any demands of the Government upon the bank; that trade had undergone no detriment in consequence thereof; and that though it had been supposed that Government had required at a low rate of interest what was actually matter of favour, such was not the case. He denied that he was an habitual borrower, as he had been called, having borrowed but once, under extraordinary circumstances, and to an amount averaging only £900,000, which he had for a period of between four and five weeks, and while he spoke, he added, that the debt was entirely extinct. He referred all these widely-spread delusions to the fictitious way in which the accounts were kept, and which effectually blinded the public. He had himself altered the mode in which deficiency-bills were issued, and had endeavoured to apply to them the principle adopted in reference to other advances for public purposes; and he hoped, under the advice of the law officers of the crown, to effect a further reform. This closed the answer to the charges.

He then proceeded to announce the views of Government as to providing for the expenses of the war, recapitulating the results of his former statement when the doubled income tax was granted, and when an estimated revenue of £56,656,000 against an expenditure of £56,189,000 gave a surplus of £467,000. The new, navy, army and ordnance estimates, with an additional £500,000 for the militia, would require £6,000,000; but it was necessary also to provide for charges as yet unknown, and he should have to ask for £6,850,000 in addition to what had been already granted. This would have to be raised by taxation. It was proposed to repeat the operation which had already been performed on the income tax. The former operations had given from this source £9,582,000 and the addition would give £3,250,000; and in all, £12,832,000. This augmentation, which was from 7*d.* to 14*d.* in the pound, would be asked for the period of the war, and, should the war terminate—which he prayed God might grant—during the existence of the tax under the act of 1853, the augmentation would cease. In this way, about two-thirds of the expenses would be provided for. As regarded the remainder, Government was not inclined to push the doctrine of the income tax so far as some were disposed to do, nor ought the subjects of that tax to bear the whole expense of a national war. Nor was there any other direct tax which Government could propose, and, least of all, could they apply to the assessed taxes, or draw into a trap those who had been invited to regulate their establishments under the new system. As regarded indirect taxes, they had resolved not to alter the system of postage, which

had been so prosperous and beneficial, except for the purpose of augmenting its benefits. Nor did Government intend to re-impose the taxes of last year, believing that nothing but the last extremity would induce Parliament to restore the fetters of Excise when they had once been removed. Nor could they touch the tea duties, or those on tobacco.

Passing from the negative to the positive conclusions of Government, he said that it would be necessary to go to the consumer, but this would be done in the least oppressive or injurious mode. It was proposed to repeat the operation of last year on Scotch and Irish spirits, and to augment the duty in Scotland by 1s. a gallon and in Ireland by 8d.; and this, he estimated, would be a gain to the Exchequer of £450,000. In the next place, they proposed to classify and re-adjust the sugar duties, which would involve no present increase of duty, but would add to the duties that would be otherwise payable after the 5th of July from 1s. to 1s. 6d. per cwt. The gain upon this modification of the sugar duties would be £700,000. These three sums amounted to £4,400,000, leaving still £2,450,000 to be provided for to meet the additional charge of £6,850,000. There was therefore yet another step to be made, and the Government proposed to make that step by the augmentation of the duty on malt, being convinced that, in combination with the increase of the spirit duties, and the modification of the sugar duties, it was the fairest mode of giving effect to the principle upon which they had determined to act—namely, that this war having been undertaken not for the benefit of any particular class, but with a view to national interests and the national honour, the charge ought to be fairly distributed among the different classes of the community. The malt tax pressed on all, was easily and completely collected, and the addition required no increased staff to get it in, and therefore the impost seemed to fulfil the conditions which should be sought for. The malt duty was now, in round figures, 2s. 9d. per bushel, and he proposed to raise it to 4s., which would leave it lower than it was in 1801, and less than half what it was from 1804 to 1816, during the great war struggle. Taking the consumption at 40,000,000 bushels, this would give £2,450,000. The united amounts thus to be obtained by increased income tax, spirit duty, sugar duty, and malt duty, would be £6,850,000, which was the required sum. All these taxes were to be asked for war purposes, except the spirit duty increase, which was to be permanent. But it was also necessary to have a resource for extraordinary contingencies, and for a possible rapid increase in the rate of war expenditure. He wished, therefore, to take powers for creating means to be used in case of need. For of the £6,850,000 of taxation which had been asked, he could not expect to receive before the 5th of April, 1855, more than £2,840,000, which would leave him at that date in a deficiency of £4,010,000. This would have to be provided against, and the mode of doing so seemed to be by temporary securities.

Mr. Gladstone here explained and vindicated what he had recently done in regard to the issue of Exchequer-bonds, mentioning that a trifle below the £2,000,000 contemplated for the first series had been

taken only, and stating that the failure of the operation, so far, had arisen from a cause in which certainly no shame was involved, for it was the departure from the old method of gigantic financial operation at the beginning of a war, whereby contractors used to make colossal fortunes. He thought that it was for the House, and not for the Chancellor of the Exchequer, to dictate the policy which should be adopted, and he had deemed it right in the first place to seek the sanction of Parliament for the measures to be adopted. He then said that he proposed to provide "interim funds" as follows:—He would take authority to confirm the contracts for the Exchequer-bonds of the class A, and power to issue a second series. He would also take power to issue two millions of Exchequer-bills, and so many more as should not be taken on the four millions of Exchequer-bonds. This would give a command of £5,500,000, and the total sum of £66,746,000 of revenue set against £62,039,000 of expenditure would show, for the year, a margin which he would for safety put at three millions and a half. After stating the order in which he proposed to proceed with the plan, he addressed himself to answer charges which had been made against Government. It is hardly necessary to meet the absurd accusation of want of foresight as to the inevitability of the war, or to defend themselves for having believed that a sovereign of Europe was a man of honour; but he met the equally ridiculous charge of having abandoned public revenue, by asking in what state the Government had found the revenue when the income tax itself was in peril, because Mr. Disraeli had thought it consistent with his duty to his sovereign and his country to promise a remodelling of that tax, without having formed any plan for the purpose? The man who did that, he subsequently observed, was the one who surrendered public revenue. He then took credit to the Government for having re-established that tax upon a secure basis, and for the various financial reforms which they had effected with the aid of the generous confidence of the House. Then he referred to the counsel that had been given to have recourse to a loan, and while declaring that to have such recourse, would have conduced to its own popularity, especially with the city, whence the name of "heaven-born minister" had come for Mr. Pitt, he entered at some length into the history of that minister's enormous and costly loans, by way of warning against the system, and as a stimulus to Parliament to struggle against it as long as possible. He added, that Mr. Pitt himself, discovering his error, afterwards made gallant efforts to redeem it. And while the Duke of Wellington was covering the name of England with fresh glories, our fathers were making noble struggles to bear the current expenses of the war; and he wished his hearers to show themselves worthy of such sires, and to do with our immense and elastic resources what they had done under such disadvantages.

In conclusion, the right hon. gentleman said, I ask you, are you worthy descendants of those who did these great acts; if so, you can honour the man who came forward to the latest day of his life to improve the financial position of the country? What is our case? We are now enjoying the fruits of 40 years' peace and the reduction of our

burdens to a marvellous extent. We now come to make these demands upon you to show what you are and to try what metal you are made of. We don't ask you—God forbid that!—to enter into any engagement to bind yourselves by any abstract resolution, but I ask you to take the steps put before you and give us the means of carrying on a just and necessary war, which has been forced on us, by adding to the taxation of the country a sum of £10,000,000, and we say that that is not an unreasonable effort to make. We have laid our policy before you, and defended ourselves against the charges and imputations thrown out, and we say it is not unreasonable for you to go to 1798. Can you not do now what Mr. Pitt and the Englishmen of that day did then, when the population of the country was not half so great as in the present day? Their imports were not one-quarter of the imports of the present day; their exports and their trade were not one-third of the exports of the present day, for where they had an export of £33,000,000 you have now an export of £98,000,000. Such is the indomitable vigour, and such the wonderful elasticity of our trade that, even under the disadvantage of a bad harvest and under the pressure of war, the imports from day to day, and almost from hour to hour, are increasing, and the very last papers laid on the table within 48 hours show that within the last three months of the year there is £250,000 increase in your exports. This is your position, and these are the circumstances under which we wish to appeal to you, in the hope that you will consider that appeal just and reasonable. We leave it in your hands with confidence, believing that the Parliament and the people of this country will, without hesitation, pursue that course which their duty may demand.

STATUTES OF THE FRANKFORT BANK.

THE statutes of the new Frankfort Bank have recently been published. From these it appears that the establishment is bound to commence business on or before the 6th of next September. Its capital is to consist of about £1,700,000, in 40,000 shares of 500 gulden (£41 13s. 4d.) each, of which one-half only are put forth in the first instance. It will be a bank of issue, discount and deposit, and is empowered to lend money to the extent of two-thirds or four-fifths of their current value on gold and silver bars, foreign bills, real estate in Frankfort, dock warrants, and all stocks and shares which enjoy a concession from a German government. It may deal in bullion and foreign bills, but not in stocks, shares or estates, and its note circulation is to be regulated by the amount of its paid-up capital. Upon the first £400,000 being paid up, paper may be issued to the amount of £800,000, and the subsequent issues are to be equal to any additional payments that may be made. Against all its notes the bank must hold one-third in bullion and the rest in bills or stocks. It will transact, likewise, every ordinary kind of banking business, but for the Frankfort Government is to make all payments and receipts free of charge.

MERCANTILE FAILURES.

SINCE the appearance of the *Bankers' Magazine* for May, there have been a few additional failures. They are as follows :—

- April, Moritz, Bauer and Co., Hamburg, Merchants.
- May, Sir Evan McKenzie and Co., London, East India trade.
- „ Salvago and Co., London and Manchester, Greek Merchants.
- „ Reade Brothers, London, Provision Merchants.
- „ Brown, Coultate and Co., Manchester, Cotton Brokers.
- „ Scaravoglio and Peloso, Genoa Merchants.

The failure of Moritz and Co., at Hamburg, is stated to represent liabilities amounting to 400,000 marcs, banco, but little has transpired with respect to assets. Some of the losses are expected to be felt in England. The suspension of Sir Evan McKenzie and Co., it is not believed will involve a large amount, but the connexions of the house are well known in India and Sydney. The interruption to the credit of Messrs. Salvago and Co. is stated to have been occasioned by the absence of remittances from Turkey. The assets reached nearly £94,000, of which £79,000 consist of consignments to Constantinople and Syra, and an offer of payment by instalments extending over two years has been accepted. The liabilities of Messrs. Reade Brothers amount to about £40,000, but the prospects of the creditors are considered doubtful. The failure of Messrs. Scaravoglio and Peloso reach, it is stated, about £60,000.

 TRADE OF THE UNITED KINGDOM.

THE Board of Trade tables for the month ending the 5th of April, were issued on the 6th of May, and exhibit unexpectedly favourable results, the declared value of our exportations presenting, as compared with the corresponding month of last year, an increase of £993,572. In the Manchester trade, which during the month ending the 5th of March showed a serious falling off, there has been a fair augmentation as regards the better classes of goods, and woollen manufactures also again figure for a considerable improvement. The demand for iron, however, and the high prices it has reached, cause metals still to appear among the largest items of increase. At the same time, there is strong evidence of continued activity in the colonial trade, and, notwithstanding the extent of our exports of such articles as beer, hardware, earthenware, saddlery, and haberdashery, at the commencement of 1853, they all show, on the present occasion, that the demand is steadily maintained. Among the few articles which present any important decrease are cotton and woollen yarns, owing to the effect of the war in checking purchases for the continental manufactories. Oil and seeds likewise show a large falling off, these having been brought into request at home from the prospects with regard to the supplies of tallow and linseed from Russia. The subjoined table gives the exact increase or decrease in the shipments of each article :—

DECLARED VALUE OF EXPORTATIONS.

Month ending March 5,	1853.	1854.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
Alkali—viz., soda	49,019	49,815	796	—
Beer and ale	130,036	170,336	40,300	—
Butter	22,773	33,174	10,401	—
Candles	9,297	16,530	7,233	—
Cheese	11,296	4,705	—	6,591
Coals and culm	98,124	198,056	99,932	—
Cordage and cables	23,498	41,314	17,816	—
Cotton manufactures	2,409,850	2,553,751	143,901	—
Cotton yarn	721,351	604,183	—	117,168
Earthenware	113,003	148,097	35,094	—
Fish	6,043	9,646	3,603	—
Glass manufactures	42,808	54,996	12,188	—
Haberdashery and millinery	395,490	484,161	88,671	—
Hardware and cutlery	310,937	374,389	63,452	—
Leather	141,314	141,975	561	—
Linen manufactures	398,704	414,859	16,155	—
Linen yarn	109,428	118,181	8,753	—
Machinery	105,602	193,981	88,379	—
Metals	1,269,917	1,662,515	392,598	—
Oil and seeds	71,284	30,430	—	40,854
Painters' colours, &c.	39,888	53,311	13,423	—
Salt	17,813	25,936	8,123	—
Silk manufactures	153,989	130,248	—	23,741
Silk, thrown	27,394	17,798	—	9,596
Silk twist and yarn	16,667	15,726	—	941
Soap	29,848	29,497	—	351
Stationery	52,914	86,761	33,847	—
Sugar, refined	36,659	49,852	13,193	—
Wool, sheep or lambs'	29,475	36,454	6,979	—
Woollen manufactures	931,216	1,033,699	102,483	—
Woollen yarn	111,596	96,529	—	15,067
Total	7,887,233	8,880,905		

The aggregate value of our exports during the first quarter of the present year has been £21,361,331, against £20,391,723 in the like period of 1853, showing an increase of £969,608, or nearly 5 per cent., which has occurred in the following order:—

Month ending	Increase.	Decrease.
February 5	—	£368,748
March 5	£344,784	—
April 5	993,572	—

As compared with the same period of 1852, there is an increase of £4,785,583.

With regard to imported commodities, the amount of breadstuffs continues to present a striking increase, such as partially to account for the constant drain of bullion, which, if the country had possessed agricultural statistics, would have been foreseen in time to prevent the evil of all financial and commercial calculations being thrown into per-

plexity. It appears that during the first three months of this year 283,988 quarters of wheat and 501,330 cwt. of flour were taken into consumption in excess of the quantity taken during the corresponding quarter of last year, although the importations on that occasion were double those of the same period of 1852, while since the date of these tables the arrivals are known to have been on a still larger scale, and there are no means of estimating what will yet be required before the harvest.

In other articles of food and luxury the consumption has been steady. Butter, cheese, eggs, coffee, sugar, wines and tobacco, all show an increase; but in cocoa, spirits, fruits and spices, there has been a decrease. A great decline in the consumption of tea is explained by the dealers having refrained from purchasing until the reduction of the duty.

Subjoined are the quantities of provisions, &c., imported and taken for home consumption:—

Month ending April 5.	Imported.		Home Consumption.	
	1853.	1854.	1853.	1854.
Grain, wheat, quarters ..	286,477	567,220	287,153	567,220
Grain of other descriptions, quarters	131,745	260,084	131,745	260,084
Indian corn, quarters ..	214,508	195,839	214,508	195,839
Flour and meal, cwt. ..	762,252	623,900	762,252	623,900
Provisions.—Bacon, pork, lard, &c., cwt. ..	101,335	96,679	Free.	Free.
Butter and cheese, cwt. ..	47,003	52,856	46,990	68,630
Animals, No.	15,301	12,959	Free.	Free.
Eggs, No.	11,564,320	13,404,533	11,562,640	13,339,498
Cocoa, lb.	263,525	661,372	454,227	419,738
Coffee, British, lb. ..	1,122,692	2,419,585	2,239,413	2,511,075
Ditto, foreign, lb. ..	1,186,114	747,746	796,744	622,799
Total coffee ..	2,308,806	3,167,331	3,036,157	3,133,874
Sugar—				
West India, cwt. ..	124,521	180,978	165,527	190,712
Mauritius, cwt. ..	240,575	226,302	153,773	191,430
East India, cwt. ..	179,481	89,448	133,207	131,724
Foreign, cwt. ..	63,218	146,318	77,731	63,316
Total sugar ..	607,795	643,046	530,238	577,182
Tea, lb.	8,608,236	8,619,663	2,976,177	1,294,716
Rice, cwt.	43,707	152,534	53,999	80,396
Spirits, gallons	954,508	917,426	419,231	397,083
Wines, gallons	862,826	949,510	562,424	690,566
Opium, lb.	38,426	21,483	5,723	7,008
Tobacco, lb.	985,242	1,763,227	2,494,983	2,658,876
Fruits.—Currants, figs, and raisins, cwt. ..	21,100	42,050	49,944	20,241
Spices, lb.	503,330	746,863	326,328	272,553
Ditto, cwt.	454	1,779	209	277

The following are the comparative imports and exports of raw material, showing again a large increase in all, except hemp and cotton :—

Month ending April 5.	Imported.		Exported.	
	1853.	1854.	1853.	1854.
Flax, cwt.	44,146	56,278	—	—
Hemp, cwt.	48,757	38,337	—	—
Raw silk, lb.	590,933	717,642	47,553	79,409
Cotton, cwt.	1,125,436	808,651	95,778	110,965
Wool, lb.	4,161,745	7,363,602	651,358	1,377,389
Tallow, cwt.	29,299	48,352	—	—

Of silk manufactures the totals stand thus :—

Month ending April 5.	Imported.		Home Consumption.	
	1853.	1854.	1853.	1854.
Silk, manufactures of Europe, lb... ..	80,717	98,970	78,446	97,735
Ditto, of India, pieces ..	53,264	49,993	19,973	20,820

The importations of other articles have been mostly large, and in glass manufactures and timber the increase has been considerable

THE CLEARING-HOUSE.

It has been arranged that the joint-stock banks of London shall, from and after the 24th June next, be entitled to the facilities afforded by the Clearing-house, and preparations are being made accordingly. Preliminary to this alteration, a change has been made in the mode of transacting the clearing business between the private bankers and the joint-stock bankers—the balances on each side being by “transfer tickets,” instead of by the transfer of bank-notes.

THE BANK OF FRANCE.

THE *Moniteur* publishes the following monthly debtor and creditor account of the Bank of France, made up to the 11th of May:—

DEBTOR.						F.	C.
Capital of the bank	..	..	..	..	..	91,250,000	0
Reserve of the bank	..	..	..	..	..	12,980,750	14
Reserve of the bank in landed property	..	..	..	..	..	4,000,000	0
Bank notes in circulation	..	..	..	..	..	455,370,400	0
Do. of the branch banks	..	..	..	..	..	134,782,675	0
Bank notes to order	..	..	..	..	..	7,040,615	16
Receipts payable at sight	..	..	..	..	..	13,131,001	0
Treasury account current, creditor	..	..	..	..	..	74,589,499	77
Sundry accounts current	..	..	..	..	..	166,503,353	14
Do. with the branch banks	..	..	..	..	..	29,610,612	0
Dividends payable	..	..	..	..	..	442,864	25
Discounts and sundry interests	..	..	..	..	..	9,776,024	21
Commission on deposits	..	..	..	..	..	14,069	85
Rediscouted during the last six months	..	..	..	..	..	1,289,106	12
Sundries	..	..	..	..	..	2,412,438	44
						F.1,003,193,409	8

CREDITOR.						F.	C.
Cash in hand	..	..	..	..	..	249,018,429	56
Do. in the branch banks	..	..	..	..	..	160,612,147	0
Commercial bills overdue	..	..	..	..	..	2,257,353	35
Commercial bills discounted, but not yet due, of which							
53,358,195f. 6c. were received from the branch banks	..	..	..	..	..	165,112,561	53
Do. in the branch banks	..	..	..	..	..	170,643,822	0
Advanced on deposit of bullion	..	..	..	..	..	1,022,600	0
Do. by the branch banks	..	..	..	..	..	1,284,693	0
Advanced on French public securities	..	..	..	..	..	19,346,136	10
Do. by the branch banks	..	..	..	..	..	6,439,950	0
Advanced on railway securities	..	..	..	..	..	36,273,000	0
Do. by the branch banks	..	..	..	..	..	14,459,220	0
Advanced to the state on the treaty of June 30th, 1848	..	..	..	..	..	70,000,000	0
Discounted Treasury bonds for the Treasury	..	..	..	..	..	30,000,000	0
Government stock reserved	..	..	..	..	..	10,000,000	0
Do. disposable	..	..	..	..	..	55,447,573	97
Hotel and furniture of the bank	..	..	..	..	..	4,000,000	0
Landed property of the branch banks	..	..	..	..	..	4,019,088	0
Expenses of the management of the bank	..	..	..	..	..	1,168,432	87
Sundries	..	..	..	..	..	2,000,400	65
Protested bills	..	..	..	..	..	98,001	5
						F.1,003,193,409	8

Certified by the Governor of the Bank of France, Count D'ARGOUT.

It appears from the preceding account, that the cash in hand in Paris has increased by 26,178,458f. 71c., and in the departments by 14,284,353f.; the commercial bills discounted have decreased in Paris by 29,432,723f. 31c., and in the departments by 16,352,895f.; the advances on public securities have decreased by 2,150,600f.; the bank notes in circulation have decreased by 11,753,000f.; the balance to the credit of the Treasury has decreased by 2,614,900f. 62c.; the sundry accounts current in Paris have decreased by 6,190,904f. 50c., and increased in the departments by 569,844f.

SAVINGS BANKS.

It will be noticed by the following extract from the proceedings in the House of Commons on the 4th of May, that the introduction of a savings banks bill is definitively postponed for this session.

Mr. Oliveira asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he intended to introduce any measure upon the subject of savings banks during the present session.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer said, he had on a former occasion stated that there was an intimate connexion between the provisions for the management of savings banks and for regulating the financial bearing of those banks, and, in consequence of that connexion, although he had prepared a plan for the management of savings banks, he feared it would not be in his power to present a bill on the subject that would be practically useful during the present session.

Banking and Commercial Law.

THE LAW OF LIFE INSURANCE AS IT AFFECTS BANKING AND COMMERCIAL TRANSACTIONS.

LIFE insurance furnishes, in many cases, a security for the payment of debts; and when regarded in that light, it is peculiarly connected with banking and commerce. It is not intended in this article to discuss the entire law of life insurance, but only the following branches, which seem to comprise all that is important in reference to life insurance, as affording security for the payment of debts.

- 1st. The creation of the contract of insurance.
- 2nd. The transfer of the same.
- 3rd. The recovery of the sum insured.

As regards the first, the legislature requires that a party creating or continuing an insurance shall have an interest in the life insured. It is not the practice with offices in these times to enquire whether an interest exists or not. It is considered unfair for an office to receive premiums and then to refuse to pay the insurance on this ground alone; and we believe such is scarcely ever done. Nevertheless, there may be cases of fraud or crime in which suspicion, although strong, may fall short of proof; and in such cases, the office may think it right to fall back upon the law relating to the existence of an insurable interest, and resist the payment of the policy on that ground.

The following is an illustration of the stringent nature of the law.

"In *Halford v. Kymer*, it appeared that upon the marriage of the

plaintiff certain funds had been settled after the decease of himself and his wife, who were successively entitled to life interests, upon trust for the children of the marriage, according to the appointment of the plaintiff and of his wife; and in default of appointment, if there should be but one child of the marriage, then in trust for such child, to become a vested interest in such child, if a son, at the age of twenty-one years; and if no child of the said marriage, or issue of such child, should become entitled to a vested interest in the said trust moneys; then upon such trusts as the wife should appoint, and in default of her appointment, in trust for her next of kin, as if she had died intestate and unmarried. They had one son, and no other children; and the marriage having been dissolved by Act of Parliament, the plaintiff married again, and effected a policy with the Asylum Life Office, on the 13th of February, 1826, for two years, upon the life of his son, to provide against his death before he attained the age of twenty-one years. The son did attain that age on the 2nd of June, 1827, and on the 5th of January following made his will, and thereby gave all his real and personal estate to his father, and appointed him sole executor, and died on the 11th of the same month. In an action against the office, *Lord Tenterden* nonsuited the plaintiff, on the ground that, not having any pecuniary interest in the life of his son at the time when he effected the policy, the same was void under the statute; giving him liberty to move to enter a verdict if the Court should be of opinion that he had an insurable interest. In delivering the judgment of the Court, Bayley J. said, 'It is enacted by the 3rd section of the 14th Geo. III., chap. 48, sec. 3, that no greater sum shall be recovered than the amount of the value of the interest of the insured in the life or lives. Now what was the amount or value of the interest of the party insuring in this case? Not one farthing. Certainly it has been said that there are numerous instances in which a father has effected an insurance on the life of his son. If a father, wishing to give his son some property to dispose of, make an insurance on his son's life in his (the son's) name, not for his (the father's) own benefit, but for the benefit of his son, there is no law to prevent him doing so; but that is a transaction quite different to the present; and if a notion prevails that such an insurance as the one in question is valid, the sooner it is corrected the better.' "—*Bunyon on Life Insurance*, p. 14.

If such a case were to arise now, it may be doubted whether an office would resist the payment. The father clearly had an interest in his son's living to attain twenty-one, and then acquire property which he might give or leave by will (as he did) to his father, although such an interest was not more than a reasonable expectation, and not of any value as recognised by law. At all events, it is not usual to hear of a refusal to pay on this ground, and this branch of the subject need not therefore be further discussed.

A more frequent ground of objection is that the party insuring has concealed some material circumstance which he ought to have communicated to the office. It seems to us that

the law is unnecessarily strict on this point. Thus, at page 80 of *Bunyon on Insurance*, it is said—

“Not only is he (*i. e.*, the party insuring) required to state all matters within his knowledge which he believes to be material to the question of the insurance, but all which in point of fact are so. If he conceals anything which he knows to be material, it is a fraud; but besides that, if he conceals anything which may influence the rate of premium which the underwriter may require, although he does not know that it would have that effect, such concealment entirely vitiates the policy. An entire disclosure must then be made of all material facts known to the assured; and not only so, but all representations made by him as to material facts must be substantially correct; and to this may be added, that where a representation amounts to a warrant, it must not only be substantially but literally true.”

In our opinion, all questions on this subject ought to be closed by a simple enactment that when an office has once taken money to effect a policy, it should be bound to perform the contract, unless in the case of fraud alone.

2nd. The transfer or charge of the same.

As regards the creation of interests in a policy by means of transferring or charging it by a writing, a deposit or otherwise, *Mr. Bunyon* says,—

“The form of the instrument is immaterial: for example, a deed poll in the form of a power of attorney, when executed for a valuable consideration, was considered to amount to an assignment of, or a covenant or agreement to assign, the sums which the donee was empowered to receive; and indeed, for the mere purpose of a transfer of the interest upon a sale, an agreement, an interchange of letters offering and accepting the sale, coupled with proof of payment of the purchase-money, or even a simple receipt, will be as effectual as the most elaborate deed as conclusive evidence of the contract. The evidence of a mere agreement to charge must, however, be clear, for the leaning of a court of equity will be against creating partial liens, at least in mercantile transactions, upon the strength of equivocal expressions. A well-drawn mortgage deed will, moreover, contain a power for the mortgagee to sell the policy, either by public auction or private contract, or to surrender it to the office; and also a power, usually termed the receipt clause, entitling him to give a good discharge for the purchase or surrender moneys, as well as in the event of the policy becoming a claim upon the failure of the life upon which it depends for the whole of the insurance moneys, irrespective of the state of the account as between himself and the representatives of the mortgagor, and without the concurrence of such representatives, or the persons entitled to the equity of redemption of the policy. The ordinary power of attorney, it will be observed, is not equivalent to the receipt clause. A deed, nevertheless, possesses many advantages over a simple agreement. It is the best and most usual evidence of the complete contract, and generally contains a power of attorney (which, however, need not necessarily be

by deed), and by which payment of the sum assured may often be more readily compelled in a court of law, and covenants for title. To these may be added in the case of a mortgage, the remedy given by the covenant of the mortgagor for the payment of the mortgage debt and interest, and the recurring premiums, and that the mortgage debt becomes thereby a special debt, so as to entitle the mortgagee to a priority over the simple contract creditors of the mortgagor in the administration of his assets upon his decease, in the event of the insufficiency of the insurance moneys for its satisfaction. The object of the former is to enable the assignee to sue at law, but does not rebut the equitable liability of the assurers to see to the application of the money. 'I do not think,' said the late *Vice-Chancellor of England*, 'that the Court has ever decided that a receipt under the former is to be taken as equivalent to a receipt given under the latter.' In that case, there was the ordinary power of attorney and a receipt clause, inapplicable to the event which had happened. The donor of the power was dead, so that it failed at law, and it was thought that the difference of language in the two parts of the deed proved that it was not intended that a receipt under the one clause should be equivalent to a receipt under the other. Where, however, the power of attorney is sufficiently extensive to rebut the equitable liability, it is conceived that it may be safely relied on, and where such a power is inserted in the assignment of a policy upon the life of the assignor, either by way of mortgage or upon trusts; and it expressly declares that the receipt of the assignee, or his assigns, in the name of the assignor, his executors or administrators, shall be a sufficient discharge to the insurers, without any liability on their part to see to the application of the money. It is submitted that the true construction of such a power, failing as it does, *ex necessitate rei*, as a power of attorney by the death of the donor, is identical with that of the receipt clause. Of course, when the trusts of the deed are of such a nature as to negative the liability of the assurer to see to the application of the money, as, for instance, when an assignment is made for the payment of debts or for any other purpose requiring time and the exercise of a discretion on the part of the trustees, no express power of giving discharges can be required.

"A mortgage may also be made by a deposit of the policy, either with or without a memorandum in writing. The mere possession of the policy will not indeed give a creditor a lien thereon, particularly where that fact may be otherwise explained, as in the case of a solicitor who ordinarily holds his clients' title deeds. But the deposit upon an advance of money will, without more, give an equitable lien, and the contract to charge will be inferred; and the deposit will cover subsequent advances, if it appear by evidence that they were made upon the faith of the security, or that the original deposit was continued with an agreement for a further advance. And in like manner, a policy may be deposited with a banker as a security for a running account, and the deposit may be enlarged by a subsequent agreement to secure advances made by the bank, after a change of partners; but when deposited for a certain sum it would not give a lien for a further sum, when the account was overdrawn: and it is to be remembered that in

every case it is the agreement that gives the lien, either as expressly shown by a written contract or by parol evidence or necessarily to be inferred from the acts of the parties. As the statute of frauds does not interfere, there seems moreover to be no reason why the security given by a mortgage by deed should not be extended by a parol agreement to recover further advances. A deposit may also be made to secure a debt already in existence, and that although the debt be due upon a previous voluntary bond, or to the trustees of a voluntary settlement; and the deposit in such a case, although voluntary, is good in the event of a subsequent bankruptcy, unless there be fraud or insolvency at the time. Every such deposit however, it will be remembered, to be valid in the event of bankruptcy, must be accompanied with notice to the office; and, generally speaking, incumbrances will take priority according to the order of the dates at which such notices shall have been given.

"In the absence of a power of sale, the mortgagee will be enabled to sell, through the medium of a court of equity, whether the mortgage be by deed or by a simple deposit.

"Where an equitable charge only is made (as must be the case in the assignment of a policy), the proper form of the decree *prima facie* will be for a sale. It would seem, however, that there may be a foreclosure of a mortgage of stock, whether the interest therein be in possession or reversionary, or generally of any chattel personal. Formerly the choice of the remedy would be with the mortgagee, but now, by the New Chancery Practice Amendment Act, sec. 48, it is enacted, 'that it shall be lawful for the Court, in any suit for the foreclosure of the equity of redemption in any mortgaged property, upon the request of the mortgagee, or of any subsequent incumbrancer, or of the mortgagor, or any person claiming under them respectively, to direct a sale of such property, instead of a foreclosure of such equity of redemption, upon such terms as the Court may think fit to direct, and, if the Court shall so think fit, without previously determining the priorities of incumbrances, or giving the usual or any time to redeem; provided that, if such request be made by any such subsequent incumbrancer, or by the mortgagor, or by any person claiming under them respectively, the Court shall not direct any such sale without the consent of the mortgagee or the persons claiming under him, unless the party making such request shall deposit in Court a reasonable sum of money, to be fixed by the Court, for the purpose of securing such terms as the Court may think fit to impose upon the party making such request.'"—*Bunyon on Life Insurance*, pp. 189 to 198.

3rd. The recovery of the sum insured.

When the event upon which the insurance is payable happens, the following steps are necessary to obtain payment:—The death must be proved. The title of the party claiming payment must be shown; and therefore, where there are many deeds or transactions relative to the policy, a long chain of proof is necessary. The age, if not admitted (as it always ought to be), must be proved. When the insurance is on the assured's own life, and

has not been effectually assigned, the receipt of his executors or administrators will be required. In that case, and also in the event of the death of the party who is entitled to receive the insurance (not being the assured person), there must be a legal probate or administration. The law in this respect is full of hardship, anomaly and oppressive expense, and most earnestly do we hope to see the new Court of Probate established, and the proposed amendments made in the law of probates and letters of administration before the end of the present session. Touching the law as it is, *Mr. Bunyon* says—

“It is not, moreover, sufficient that probate or letters of administration should be taken out, unless they are so in a court of competent jurisdiction, and stamped with an amount not less than the particular demand; for the probate can only be received in evidence when properly stamped, and a larger demand would prove the insufficiency. For ascertaining the Court in which probate or grant ought to be obtained in each particular case, it may be convenient to state shortly the general rules upon this subject. When all the goods and chattels (*bona notabilia*), that is, legal personal estate to the value of £5 or upwards, are within the jurisdiction of the bishop of the diocese in which he died, probate or administration in the diocesan court is the only proper one; but when the deceased possessed *bona notabilia* in more than one diocese of the province, a metropolitan or prerogative probate or grant will be requisite.

“When there are *bona notabilia* in more than one province, there must be a separate probate or grant for each province; and in each province it will be diocesan or prerogative, according as the deceased possessed *bona notabilia* in one or more dioceses. When a man not being in *itinere* dies in one diocese, not having property there, but having *bona notabilia* in another diocese of the same province, it is said that the archbishop shall grant probate; but when the deceased dies out of the province, leaving *bona notabilia* in one diocese only, the archbishop and bishop have a concurrent jurisdiction.

“The question as to the diocese in which the sum to be recovered shall be taken to be *bona notabilia* must be decided by the circumstance of the policy being under seal, or the contrary;—by the application of the rule that simple contract debts are *bona notabilia* at the place in which the residence of the debtor lies; whereas specialty debts constitute *bona notabilia* at the place where the specialty happens to be at the time of the death.”—*Bunyon on Life Insurance*, p. 316.

We have now fulfilled our task; but before concluding we must refer those who desire to study the law of life insurance in all its branches, to *Mr. Bunyon's* work on *Life Insurance*, a most complete book, displaying great study and practical experience in every page, and to which we are under great obligations in preparing the preceding article.

NEW COLONIAL BANKS.

THE Bank of Natal, recently started, is to be a bank of issue and deposit, the business being conducted at Pietermaritzburg, and incorporated by charter, with limited liabilities; capital £15,000, in shares of £3 each. Several new banks have also been organized in the Cape colony. The new Ceylon Bank has not yet been brought into operation. A local bank is being promoted in Newfoundland. An act incorporating a local bank at Charlottetown, under the title of the Bank of Prince Edward's Islands, passed the Island Legislature on the 4th ult. The capital is £30,000 currency, in 15,000 shares of £2 each, with power to increase it hereafter to £100,000.

Legal Miscellany.

ROLLIN V. STEWARD.

NISI PRIUS COURT.—*Norfolk Assizes, March 22.*—(Before Lord CAMPBELL and a Special Jury.)

Mr. Serjeant Byles, Mr. O'Malley, and Mr. Worlledge appeared for the plaintiff; Mr. Evans and Mr. Couch appeared for the defendant. In this action the plaintiff sought to recover damages from the East of England Banking Company, of which the defendant was the officer, for improperly refusing to honour his checks. The case turned on three questions, which were left by his lordship to the jury *seriatim* in the following form:—1. Did the bank undertake to discount a certain bill for £900 deposited by the plaintiff for that purpose? 2. Was there any special agreement to employ the £900 only in a particular way? 3. Was a certain letter of credit for £100 obtained by the plaintiff for his brother in Australia to be at once set to the debit of the plaintiff or not to be debited until employed? It appeared that a witness, Wilson, had been joint manager with Day, jun., of the Lynn branch of the bank, but Day, sen., had for a time taken the place of Day, jun., and between Day, sen., and Wilson much difference of opinion existed as to the account of the plaintiff. The jury solved the three points involved in the cause by finding a verdict for the plaintiff, with £500 damages.

EAST OF ENGLAND BANK.—ROLLIN V. STEWARD, P.O.

Court of Common Pleas, Westminster, May 8. (Sittings in Banco—Easter Term.)

In this case Mr. Serjeant Byles, Mr. O'Malley, Q.C., and Mr. Worlledge appeared to show cause against a rule obtained on a former day, and now supported by Mr. Willes and Mr. Couch, for a new trial, on the ground that the damages were excessive, and also for misdirection.

The action was tried before Lord Campbell at the last Norfolk assizes, and was brought against the public officer of the East of England Banking Company, for not cashing three checks of the plaintiff and dishonouring a bill made payable at their bank, amounting altogether to the sum of £111, when at that time, as appeared by the plaintiff's pass-book, there was standing to the plaintiff's credit a sum of £157. A part of the plaintiff's credit was made up by a bill for £900, which the bank had agreed to discount, and had placed the amount to his credit as cash. That bill was not due, but the bank

demurred to making further advances in respect of it. The plaintiff contended that, having agreed to discount the bill, and having given him credit for its amount in his pass-book, he had a right to draw on the balance appearing to his credit; and that he was injured in his credit, as a tradesman and a ship-builder, by the refusal of the bank to honour his checks, which they ought to have paid. The jury found for the plaintiff, damages £500. At the trial Lord Campbell told the jury to give moderate damages, but that they were not bound to give merely nominal damages. It was now contended by the learned counsel in support of the rule, that this direction was wrong, and that as no damages were proved the damages ought to have been nominal. In showing cause against this rule, it was contended that the plaintiff being in trade the jury were justified in giving him such damages as they thought would meet the injury he might possibly have sustained by the defendant's breach of duty.

The Court were of opinion that the direction of Lord Campbell was right, and in accordance with the decision in "*Marzetti v. Williams*," (1 B. and Ad., 415). In that case it was held that the refusal to pay checks for small amounts was likely to injure the plaintiff in his trade, as it showed that the defendants had a small opinion of the plaintiff's circumstances, and that the plaintiff was entitled to recover nominal damages. The jury had a right to assume that such refusal would be injurious to some extent, and they were the proper tribunal to decide to what extent. The Court, however, thought the damages very large, and as to that part of the rule the Court were not prepared to express an opinion, and it must stand over. It might be that on consideration counsel would relieve the Court from expressing a decision as to this fact, which was always a question very difficult for the Court to deal with.

Matter postponed.

Bank Meetings.

AGRA AND UNITED SERVICE BANK.

THE half-yearly meeting of this bank was held at the Bank-house, Calcutta, on the 13th of February, Captain Bazett in the chair; when the following report was adopted.

The directors have much pleasure in reporting to the proprietors, that the result of the operations of the bank for the past half-year has been very favourable; the accounts now submitted show a net profit of Company's Rs. 4,05,816-0-9, being at the rate of Rs. 12-12-0 per cent. per annum on the capital. After providing for a dividend at the rate of 9 per cent., there will remain a surplus of Rs. 1,19,413-8-9. The directors have deemed it advisable on economical grounds to purchase the premises occupied by the Bank in Council House Street, thus freeing the bank from a monthly rent charge equal to 7 per cent. per annum, on the amount of the purchase-money, and securing the permanent possession of a commodious and central place of business for the head office, as well as a valuable property for the shareholders. The directors recommend that the cost of the house, Rs. 60,000, be paid from the profits of the half-year, leaving Rs. 59,413-8-9 to be credited to the reserve fund. The resolutions of the special general meeting, held on the 10th of January, for the purpose of increasing the capital to 70 lacs of rupees, and deciding on the establishment of an agency in China, are now to be brought forward for confirmation. The directors, in their circular of the 26th of November, intimated that the Bombay agent would proceed to China, but they have subsequently determined on retaining Mr. Brown at Bombay, and Mr.

John Cardno will proceed from Calcutta, by the first direct steamer, for the purpose of opening the China agency.

London, December 17th, 1853.

We hereby certify that we have this day carefully examined the abstracts, statements, vouchers, and securities, relating to the general business of the London agency of the Agra and United Service Bank, during the six months ended the 30th of November last, and to its position on that day, and we have the pleasure to report as follows:—

Bills receivable on hand.—We find that these correspond with the amount stated in the abstract of “undue bills and balances.”

Bills discounted on hand.—After a careful examination, we find that the same correspond with the amount entered in the “full report,” and as far as we have the means of knowing, believe the whole to be good and legitimate mercantile transactions, and bearing short dates.

Securities.—These have been properly accounted for, by the production of vouchers, or of the securities themselves.

Current and deposit accounts have been tested by referring to various folios in the ledgers, and finding the results correct in the abstracts, the working of the accounts has also been checked, as far as our time would admit of.

Balances at Coutts and Co. and the Bank of England, on the 30th ultimo, with the cash on hand, appear also to be correct, and the banker’s pass-books have been submitted to us.

Loans.—As far as our information goes these appear to be regular and safe transactions.

Profit and Loss.—This statement continues to bear its character of improvement, and the general increase of the business of the agency is of a considerable progressive nature, and warrants the expectation of a still better position in the above account of profit..

The establishment of the agency continues to deserve our commendation, and every facility has been offered to us in the discharge of our duties as auditors.

WM. NEWMARCH, }
D. ALLARDICE, } *Auditors.*

The following resolutions were then duly passed:—

1. That the accounts submitted be approved and passed, and, together with the directors’ and branch auditors’ reports, published for the information of the shareholders.

2. That a dividend at the rate of 9 per cent. per annum be declared; that Rs. 60,000 of the divisible balance be appropriated to the purchase of the bank premises, as recommended by the directors, and the remainder, Rs. 59,413 8-9, credited to the reserve fund.

3. That the thanks of this meeting, on the part of the proprietary, be given to the several committees at Agra, Madras, Bombay and London, for their management of the affairs of those branches for the past six months,

4. That the following gentlemen be directors for the ensuing half-year:—Messrs. J. Anderson, W. Bracken, C. Campbell, R. F. Stack and J. Gregory Vos.

Auditors of the bank accounts for the current half-year were then elected.

The meeting having been made special, for confirmation, or otherwise, of the proceedings of the special general meeting of the 10th of January last, the secretary stated that the votes on the increase of the capital of the bank stood as follows:—

	Shareholders.	Shares.	Votes.
In favour of the increase	.. 217, holding	7,099, entitled to	1,008
Against	.. 7,	38,	11
Majority in favour	.. 210	7,061	997

It was accordingly resolved—

That the resolutions of the special general meeting of the 10th January, adopting the propositions of the directors of the 25th November last, for increase of the capital to 70 lacs of rupees, and for the establishment of a branch of the bank in China, be now confirmed.

C. Y. BAZETT, *Chairman*.

After a vote of thanks to the chairman the meeting closed.

FRANCIS R. NEILSON, *Secretary*.

PROVINCIAL BANK OF IRELAND.

THE annual meeting of the shareholders in this bank was held at the office, in Old Broad-street, on the 18th of May; Sir Jas. Weir Hogg, M.P., presiding. Mr. Hewat, the secretary, then read the following report:—"The directors have the pleasure of stating that the year which has elapsed since the last annual meeting has been of a character very favourable to Ireland, and that the improvement which was noticed in former reports as apparent and progressive during the three previous years has continued, and there is every reason to conclude that the general interests of that country have enjoyed, and are now enjoying, increased prosperity. The crop of 1853, which proved so deficient in England and on the continent, was by no means so unproductive or inferior in Ireland. The extent of ground under wheat was no doubt much smaller than in ordinary years, but in proportion to the extent of cultivation the crop was considered to be quite an average one in quantity, and of good quality. The barley and oat crops were not so good, and in some districts, especially in the west and north, the yield was deficient, but the various reports recorded by the directors justify the conclusion that the produce was not, on the whole, much, if at all, under an average. The potato crop was a large one, and the quality good, and though the disease of recent years is not yet entirely removed, it appears to be gradually becoming less injurious. Importations of wheat and Indian corn into Ireland have still been required; but, on the other hand, the export of potatoes, and of grain and flour, from Ireland to England and Scotland, since last harvest, has been considerable. The season of 1853 was not favourable for the growth of flax. In some favoured and well-cultivated spots the yield and quality were good; but the crop is considered to have been, on the whole, of a mixed and rather inferior description. The high price of grain and other agricultural produce, and of stock, has, however, tended greatly to improve the circumstances of the landed proprietors and farming classes, and the general trade of the country has experienced the benefits which naturally arise from the more abundant circulation of money. In confirmation of this view, the directors have, with much satisfaction, remarked the gradual expansion of the business of the bank, the favourable result of which is shown by the statement to which the attention of the meeting is now requested. The account submitted to the last yearly general meeting in May, 1853, showed the amount of rest, or undivided profits, at 26th March, 1853, to be £132,147 15s. 5d.; out of which there was paid to the proprietors a bonus of 4 per cent. at Midsummer, 1853, amounting to £21,600—leaving a balance of £110,547 15s. 5d. And there has been further deducted the amount of two half-yearly dividends paid to the proprietors as follows, viz.—at Midsummer 1853, £21,600; at Christmas, 1853, £21,600—together, £43,200—leaving of the rest of last year a balance of £67,347 15s. 5d.; to which there has since been added the amount of net profits for the year ending on the 25th, being the last Saturday of March, 1854, after deducting the property tax and all expenses, and providing for all bad and doubtful debts, £77,970 14s. 6d., making the amount of rest, or undivided profits, at 25th March, 1854, £145,318 9s. 11d. The directors

have no doubt that the proprietors will concur with them in viewing this statement as highly satisfactory; and, notwithstanding the recent date at which the last bonus was paid, the directors feel that the amount of the last year's profit, and the present condition of the rest, are such as to entitle the shareholders again to participate in an increased division, and they have accordingly now to announce their intention to pay in July next a bonus, or extraordinary dividend of £1 on each £100 share, and 8s. on each £10 share of the capital stock of the bank, in addition to the usual half-yearly dividend of 4 per cent., making the amount to be then paid, £2 on each £100 share, and 16s. on each £10 share; and they purpose also, as heretofore, to pay the property tax for the proprietors.

“JAMES HELME, Chairman.”

The chairman would be glad to know if any gentleman wished for further information on any point in the report. If not, he would proceed to move its reception and confirmation. He did so with great pleasure, because that document was so satisfactory as to render it unnecessary for him to do more than address to them a very few observations. The business of the bank was perfectly sound, and it was highly gratifying for him to be able to state, that there was scarcely any previous year in which the losses from bad debts had been so small as on the present occasion—enabling them to pay the usual dividend (8 per cent. per annum), together with a bonus of 4 per cent., and to add £13,000 to the rest. In commercial transactions it frequently happened that the gain of one man was the loss of another; but he had the satisfaction of believing that, as regarded this establishment, its interests were not developed without improving the moral and social condition of the people of Ireland. He did not think he could better illustrate the position of that country and her people than by referring to Parliamentary returns, which showed a very rapid diminution in the pauper population. The improvement in the value of land continued, though at the present moment there was not so great a demand for the purchase of it as there had been. He might inform them, however, that the land which was first sold under the Encumbered Estates Act, would have sold a short time since at an advance of from 20 to 50 per cent., and if it would not do so now, it was only in consequence of the alteration in the state of the money market. If, however, the demand for purchase was not so great, that for occupation was very great, and there was scarcely a farm which remained a day without being occupied, they being readily taken up at high rents, which were regularly paid. Another point of congratulation was the state of the stock in Ireland. They all knew how greatly the stock was reduced in that country during the famine year; whilst he believed now the pigs, cattle and other stock was more abundant than ever, whilst the quality was also greatly improved. As regarded the railways, very little had been done to extend them by subsidiary lines, but the chief or main railways continued to give every possible facility for communication between Dublin and the principal towns, such as Waterford, Galway, Cork, Limerick and Belfast, and assisted to develop the resources of the company. He was happy to say that, in their establishment, they had always been most fortunate in having most efficient managers and subordinate officers, and that the best feeling had always existed between the directors and proprietors; and he could assure them that nothing should ever be wanting on the part of the board to continue that feeling by the closest attention to the interests of the bank. In conclusion, he begged to move that the report be received, adopted and printed for circulation amongst the proprietors. (Cheers.)

The motion having been seconded, was carried unanimously.

Votes of thanks to the managers and secretary concluded the proceedings.

NATIONAL PROVINCIAL BANK OF ENGLAND.

THE annual general meeting of the proprietors in this bank was held, at the offices in Bishopsgate Street, on the 8th May, Mr. J. F. Laurie in the chair.

The secretary having read the advertisement convening the meeting,

The chairman observed that he had great pleasure in occupying his present position for the seventh time, at their annual meetings. He was quite aware that if it had been necessary to come before them with statements of diminished prosperity, or attenuated dividend, or to gild the pill of an unfavourable report, there were many gentlemen around him who had the ability to do so, and were much better qualified than he was for such a task. But he thought he might say that the report which he should presently have the honour to read would be one on which they might congratulate themselves. The year which had just elapsed was a year of great prosperity in all branches of commerce. The trade with the colonies had greatly increased. The iron trade, amongst others, had been very active, and this had contributed very materially to the prosperity of this institution, connected as they were with the surrounding districts, in which that trade was the main staple. There had been also a great revival in the agricultural interests, which were bound up with the prosperity of this establishment; and a still more gratifying feature in the history of the last year was the prosperous condition of the labouring classes, of whom so many had been attracted by the golden fields of Australia and California, and had sought employment in those countries, thus rendering the demand for labour greater, causing prosperity in other quarters, and, by benefiting the retailers, conducing much to the interests of this bank. With respect to their own relations, materially connected as they were with the value of money, the proprietors must be aware that in the early part of last year money was low; but the clouds which gathered over them from the east caused a stagnation of trade, giving a considerable check to people who were disposed to draw in, and the value of money accordingly increased. Fortunately, however, this establishment continued to enjoy the confidence of their clients, who felt that they could not place their money in better hands. Therefore they derived all the advantages arising from the high rate of money, and they had not had the deposits which were left in hand withdrawn to any considerable amount. Under these circumstances they had enjoyed a very large share of prosperity. He trusted that the shareholders would think that the directors had done the utmost they could for the well-being of their affairs, and that they would be satisfied with the report which he should have to offer them.

"In appearing before the proprietors with their twenty-first annual report, the directors are happy to state that the circumstances and character of the past year render the duty which they have to discharge on the present occasion, comparatively one of easy performance. In the first place, the directors have to state that, in the course of last year their attention was called to the opening presented for an agency in connexion with the Portsea branch, in the rising suburb of Landport; accordingly, after due inquiry, the directors have extended their operations to that place: on the other hand, the branch at Portsmouth has been closed, and the business there transferred to the branch at Portsea. A branch also was established at Middlesborough in October last. The discovery of iron-stone in this locality has led to the erection of extensive iron works, which have considerably added to the population and trade of Middlesborough, now rapidly becoming the seat of great local enterprise. A desire to meet the convenience of old and respectable connexions of the Stockton branch resident in Middlesborough, in no small degree influenced the determination of the directors to open this branch, which they are happy, to state has already made considerable progress. The tide of prosperity which marked the close of 1852, and which was adverted to in last report, continued

to flow unchecked at the commencement of the new year, which it thus served auspiciously to inaugurate. Stimulated by the continued influx of gold from Australia, the export trade proceeded upon an augmenting scale. All the productive powers of the country were in full activity; labour was scarce; consumption rapidly increasing; prices of every kind advancing; and apparently no interest was exempt from a participation in the general prosperity which prevailed. As the year progressed, however, the encouraging prospects with which it opened did not remain altogether unchanged. In the month of June, the Eastern question assumed an aspect which threw doubts upon the preservation of peace: fears were entertained also that the extensive shipment of goods to Australia would prove excessive and disastrous; and at a later period well-founded apprehensions of a deficient harvest made themselves felt. The sudden and rapid rise, too, in the rate of interest—the most striking feature of the year—could not fail to exercise an adverse influence upon credit; but trade, although extensive, was sound and legitimate, and notwithstanding those disturbing circumstances, the year 1853 closed without any reverses worthy of notice, and, in its commercial and banking results, may be pronounced one of the most satisfactory and profitable upon record. During this year of extensive and prosperous trade, the returns from the company's branches, as might have been expected, exhibit a steady and healthy progress; and in some districts connected with the great staple products, a large increase of valuable business has taken place. This accession of business, and the rise in the value of money above noticed, enable the directors to lay before the proprietors the following favourable statement:—

1853.		£	s.	d.
January 1.	Rest, or undivided profits, at 31st December, 1852, as exhibited at the annual meeting in May, 1853 ..	122,506	16	3
Dec. 31.	Net profits of 1853, after making allowance for bad and doubtful debts, and a proportion of preliminary expenses.	65,242	12	10
Total ..		£187,749	9	1
Deduct dividend on company's stock for 1853 £24,649 16 0				
Bonus of 2 per cent. declared and paid last year 8,216 12 0				
Vote of proprietors to officers .. 5,000 0 0				
		37,866	8	0
Leaving rest, or undivided profits at 31 Dec., 1853		£149,883	1	1

“This prosperous condition of the bank's affairs justifies, in the opinion of the directors, a larger division of profits amongst the proprietors. Accordingly it is the intention of the directors to declare a dividend at the rate of 8 per cent. per annum, as well as a bonus of 4 per cent. out of the profits of last year. The bonus to be paid along with the dividend, at the usual period in July next. It will be in the recollection of the proprietors that, on the occasion of their last annual meeting, it was intimated that a strong desire had been expressed among the officers of the company, for the formation of a provident society for their mutual benefit, embracing also, if possible, the principle of a guarantee fund. The guarantee project having, as already stated, been abandoned, the £5,000 voted by the proprietors last year for the benefit of the officers and clerks of the establishment, as a mark of appreciation of their past zealous and faithful services, the directors, acting

upon a suggestion thrown out at last meeting, propose to divide amongst them as a bonus, of which they hope the meeting will approve."

The chairman then moved that this report be received and adopted.

Major Moore seconded the motion, and observed that he so fully and cordially concurred in everything which had been said by the chairman, and was set forth in the report, that he did not feel it necessary to do more than express his approval.

The report was then adopted, and the retiring directors re-elected.

Votes of thanks were then given to the chairman and directors, and to Mr. Robertson, the manager, and other officers of the company.

THE ORIENTAL BANK CORPORATION.

THE annual meeting of the Oriental Bank Corporation was held at the offices, Walbrook, Mansion-house, on the 26th May, Mr. H. G. Gordon in the chair, when a satisfactory report was presented.

The chairman stated that he had never, since he had occupied the position which he held, met the shareholders under more encouraging circumstances than the present. The year 1853 had proved a most prosperous one for the establishment, as the declaration of a dividend at the rate of 15 per cent. might lead them to anticipate. The whole of their agencies and branches, including those in Australia, were progressing most satisfactorily, and although he could not promise that the gold discoveries in Ceylon would equal the riches derived from Ballarat and Mount Alexander, it was pleasing to state that their business was rapidly augmenting. (Applause.) Their agencies in Australia had been established subsequently to the great excitement occasioned by the sudden change in the prospects of Port Philip and Sydney, but, notwithstanding this fact, they had found them a profitable connexion. In other respects their transactions had proved lucrative, the soundness of commerce, with the high rates of the Indian and China exchanges, producing favourable results, though partial drawbacks had existed in the advance which had taken place in the price of silver, a commodity affecting their operations, and the increased value of money. (Hear, hear.) The contingencies arising from the present state of hostilities had naturally induced caution, and this would be continuously exercised, not however to the prejudice of the bank; and he thought that whoever might succeed to his position would not have reason to complain of the share of success which the next twelve months would exhibit. It would be necessary shortly to increase the capital of the establishment—an increase that he might say would be considerable, the enlargement of their business requiring additional resources. An arrangement contemplated, he thought would give satisfaction to the shareholders, viz., the payment of the dividends in future on or as near as possible to the 1st of June and 1st of December, so as to enable the board to avoid any irregular distribution occasioned by the waiting of accounts from abroad. With respect to charters, and the competition of rival institutions, they had little to apprehend, because their operations had already permanently established their success.

Mr. Cargill, the manager, then read the report, of which the following is an abstract:—

"The accounts comprise the transactions of the corporation for the year ending the 31st of December, 1853; these accounts have been audited as usual, and show a net profit of £135,268 10s. 2d. A dividend of 6 per cent., or £1 10s. per share, for the half-year ending the 30th of June last, was paid on the 14th of October; and a dividend for the half-year ending the 31st of December, 1853, at the rate of 7 per cent., or £1 15s. per share, was paid on the 21st ult., to which the directors have now the satisfaction of being able to

add a bonus of 2 per cent., or 10s. per share, to become payable on the 5th proximo. The total dividend, with bonus, for the year 1853, is thus at the rate of 15 per cent. per annum, free of income-tax, on the paid-up capital of the company. For this satisfactory result of their labours, the directors are mainly indebted to the possession of the large available means at their disposal, and of an experienced, well-trained establishment, which has enabled them, notwithstanding the keen competition they are exposed to, to improve the opportunities presented during the prosperous year that has just elapsed of an extensive and profitable business. The capital paid up on the 31st of December, 1852, was £818,965. The additions thereto—by the allotment of new shares, made on the 20th of April, 1853, and by the payment in full of all the shares of the former issue—amounting together to £123,485, make the capital, as at the 31st of December, 1853, £942,450. The reserved surplus fund stands at £188,440, which is invested in East India Government securities, and held as a permanent reserve against contingencies, as previously reported."

The chairman then proposed the additional bonus of 2 per cent., which, with previous dividends, constituted a total dividend of 15 per cent., which was unanimously agreed to.

Mr. Borrodaile congratulated the proprietors on the satisfactory position in which they found themselves placed. The additional capital spoken of, if it were £250,000 or £500,000, he had no doubt would be subscribed, considering the results of management, and the position and character of the directors. He was extremely gratified with the statement, and felt that it would receive the cordial approval of the whole of the shareholders. (Hear, hear.)

In answer to questions from Mr. Borrodaile, the chairman stated that the board were authorised under the charter to raise the additional capital; that the amount required would be "considerable," and that the arrangements connected with the issue of the new shares would be shortly announced. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. H. G. Gordon, as a retiring director, having been re-elected, and other directors named to fill vacancies, the proceedings concluded, on the motion of the chairman, with a special vote of thanks to Mr. Cargill, the chief manager, Mr. Stewart, inspector, and the other officers of the establishment.

NATIONAL BANK OF IRELAND.

THE annual general meeting of the National Bank of Ireland was held on the 25th May, at the offices, Old Broad-street, Mr. Newsam in the chair. Mr. N. S. King (the secretary) read the report, of which the following is an abstract:—

"The evident improvement in the condition of Ireland, to which the directors had the gratification to allude in their last report, has happily progressed, and the year 1853 must have been for all classes, whether the landowner or the tenant, the merchant or the tradesman, one of continuous prosperity. Land has rapidly advanced in price, owing to the inducement which the improved state of the country has afforded to capitalists to invest money in Irish estates, and the comparatively favourable harvest with which Ireland has been blessed, combined with the high prices obtained for corn and live stock, have been particularly advantageous to the agriculturist and grazier, and through them to the country at large. The Irish banking interests could not but be benefitted in a great degree by this wholesome and satisfactory state of things, but not to the full extent which might have been expected from the great improvement that has undoubtedly taken place, both in business and in credit throughout the country, for the effect of Sir Robert Peel's Act of 1845, has been to deprive the banks of issue of much of the advantage which would

otherwise have arisen from the expanded circulation which the increased enterprise and prosperity of the people render necessary. The National Bank of Ireland has not sought to exceed the limit sanctioned by that act, but from the general rise in prices, and the increased trade of Ireland since 1845, especially in the western provinces, where the chief business of this bank lies, its circulation has occasionally, in the last two years, been from £200,000 to £300,000 in excess of the amount allowed, for which excess, independent of the necessary reserve at the branches for their ordinary requirements, bullion has had to be deposited at its depôts in Ireland, at considerable expense, and with great loss of interest. Another cause of diminution in the profits of banking business in Ireland has arisen from the assimilation of the rates of discount in both countries, the current rates of interest being now as low in Ireland as in England, a fact which, however gratifying in a national point of view, must, it is clear, materially interfere with banking profits. The directors have thought it right to call your attention to these circumstances, not doubting, however, that the accounts which they now beg to submit to you will be considered highly satisfactory.

The profit and loss account now stands as follows :—

Balance of undivided profits at December, 1852	£8,074 15 1
Net profits for the year 1853, after writing off and making provision for bad and doubtful debts subsequent to 1851	48,303 2 10
	£56,377 17 11
Deduct half-year's dividend to Midsummer, 1853 ..	£11,250
Ditto ditto Christmas, ..	11,250
	£22,500
And debts which were doubtful and existing in 1851, now become bad and written off	13,275
	35,775 0 0
	£28,602 17 11
Balance of insurance fund	4,277 14 2
Leaving a total reserve fund on December 31, 1853, of	£24,880 12 1

“The chief feature in these accounts is that which so gratifyingly exhibits the continued increasing expansion and usefulness of the National Bank. The directors referred in their last report to the circumstance of its circulation and deposits having increased nearly half a million beyond what they were at the corresponding period of the previous year, and they are now happy to say that in the last twelve months they have again augmented to fully an equal extent. The reserve fund, though materially increased, is still below the amount which the directors consider desirable, at the same time the position and prospects of the bank are now such that the directors will feel themselves justified in raising the dividend in July next to the rate of 6 per cent. per annum, and this with every regard to their fixed determination to continue to accumulate an adequate reserve fund to prevent the dividend being likely to be affected by any casual falling off in the profits of the bank, which the return of a bad season or other unforeseen event might occasion. Most of the shareholders are aware that under the deed of settlement a certain remuneration, payable on a fixed scale upon any dividend or bonus declared by the bank, was secured to Mr. T. Lamie Murray during his life. This interest the directors are happy to say they have succeeded in purchasing from Mr. Murray, on terms alike equitable towards him, and advantageous to the pro-”

prietors, so that all claim which that gentleman possessed under the deed is now entirely and legally abrogated."

After a congratulatory speech from the chairman, relative to the satisfactory progress of business, the report was unanimously adopted and the directors re-elected. It was stated that business will now be commenced in London, and the board have promised to enquire into the prospects connected with the opening of a branch in Belfast.

Communications

To the Editor of the Bankers' Magazine.

PRESENTMENT FOR ACCEPTANCE.

SIR,—Will you please to state in your next number what is the general practice with reference to the acceptance of bills drawn after sight.

Is the holder entitled to present at any time during the day—without reference to business hours—and demand acceptance as of that date? Say in the case of bills drawn on a banker, where the proper business hours are from ten till three o'clock, can the holder of a bill present it at five o'clock, and ask for acceptance as of that date? And should the drawer refuse to comply, could the bill be protested, and costs recovered?

Your attention to the above will oblige,

A SUBSCRIBER.

Belfast, 5th May, 1854.

[We do not think there is any difference in this respect, between presentment for acceptance and presentment for payment, and in the latter case it is well established that presentment to a banker must be within banking hours.]

MEANING OF TERM MONTH. COMPUTATION OF TIME WHEN CALENDAR MONTHS CONTAIN A DIFFERENT NUMBER OF DAYS.

SIR,—A little difference of opinion having arisen here as to the computation of time by months on bills of exchange, I am induced to trouble you with the following remarks—

In "Byles," p. 131, this subject has been considered and anticipated as sometimes likely to occasion a difficulty; but to settle the matter, he gives an example of a bill drawn on the 31st of January, at one month, which, in the opinion of the learned gentleman, becomes due with the days of grace on the 3rd of March; now, as I know this to be at variance with the opinion of bankers of twenty years' experience, and as it appears to be so inconsistent that a bill drawn on either of four days (say 28th, 29th, 30th, or 31st of January,) should arrive at its maturity on the same day (in March), I shall be obliged by your informing me in the next number of your valuable magazine what the practice of bankers generally is in such a case.

I am, sir, your obedient servant,

Melksham, 28th April, 1854.

H. J.

[We must refer this question to our readers. We can find no legal authority more explicit on the point than "Byles." In the fifth edition, page 149, he says—"The inequality in the length of the respective months may sometimes occasion a difficulty; but it is said to be a rule not to extend the time at which the bill falls due beyond the month in which it would have fallen

due, had that month been of the length of thirty-one days. Thus, if a bill at one month be drawn on the 31st of January, it will be due on the 28th of February, and, with the days of grace, payable on the 3rd of March." There is no authority, except two old text writers, referred to in support of this position, but we think it right, for our correspondent's construction deprives the word "month" of all meaning, and makes it mean simply a certain number of days.]

THE GILBART PRIZE ESSAY.

WE have just seen the first complete copy of Mr. Granville Sharp's book, for which we have been waiting patiently for some time past. Our readers will remember that this received the prize of £100, offered by Mr. Gilbert for the best Essay on the Adaptation of Recent Discoveries and Inventions in Science and Art to the Purposes of Practical Banking; and as it is so intimately connected with the Great Exhibition, the author has determined to publish it on the 10th of June, the day fixed for the re-opening of the Crystal Palace. At this late period of the month (the 27th) it is impossible to look into the table of contents even; we may say, however, that it is a large and most attractive volume, got up in a very substantial manner, with portraits of Mr. Gilbert and of the author, together with a host of valuable illustrations, bank notes, cheques, bills, drafts with imitations in great variety, water-marks, locks, safes, presses of all kinds, and every other article belonging or in any way connected with the banking house. There are 90 different kinds of illustrations, and most of them contain several specimens. We shall take the opportunity of referring to it at length hereafter, but from this hasty glance, the book appears to embrace a large amount of information especially adapted to the use of bankers.

Notes of the Month.

WINDING-UP COMPANIES.—The Australasian Pacific Steam Company will be dissolved—the high price of wages, freight and fuel preventing a successful prosecution of the enterprise. Three of the vessels have been sold to a French company at a considerable profit; two have been engaged by the Government; and the remaining one, now nearly completed, will it is expected realise a profit. A first repayment of £5 per share will be made in June. The number of shares in the company is 12,500 of £20 each, upon which £14 has been paid, and owing to the prospects of a favourable dissolution, they are selling at £15½ in the market. The shareholders of the Australasian Coal Company have agreed to liquidate their affairs, accepting 1s. in the pound and a release from further liability. Through the cautious administration of the directors, the whole expenses incurred have not exceeded £3,470 which, from interest secured on capital, has been reduced to £1,880. The amount paid was £37,620, and after discharging general claims, a balance of £200 will be left to meet subsequent contingent liabilities.

ROBBERY FROM A BANK CLERK.—On Saturday, the 13th of May, shortly after 4 o'clock, an audacious robbery was committed on Mr. Tasker, a clerk in the house of Barnett, Hoare and Co., but happily the detection and recovery of the property were instantaneous. Several bankers' clerks were

waiting at the counter of the London Joint-Stock Bank, for the purpose of receiving the amount of their respective claims; one of them opened his case for the purpose of declaring the sum he required. A respectable looking man, who states his name to be Charles Roberts, standing near, passed his hat over the case held by the clerk, and by some sleight of hand transferred the notes it contained to his own sleeve; his arm was seized and the notes seen to drop from him. In a few moments he was in the hands of the police, and was at once transferred to the Mansion House, where he has since been committed for trial. So adroitly was the feat performed, that the victim was for a few moments utterly unconscious of his loss. Great praise is due to the captor, Mr. Whitelock, of Messrs. Sapte and Co., to whose *sang froid* and determination the recovery of the property is to be attributed. In accordance with a plan originating with the manager of the bank, on whose premises this robbery was committed, a practice has recently prevailed of arranging the exchanges of banks not included in the Clearing House list, by checks on the Bank of England. The amounts of notes, therefore, in possession of the clerk was comparatively small. Under the old system he would probably have had to account for close upon £50,000. This circumstance alone must go far to prove the wisdom of the private bankers in having determined to admit the joint-stock banks to participate with them in one common clearing house.

THE NEW CUSTOMS AND EXCISE DUTIES.—The bills for imposing further duties on malt, spirits, and sugar, provide that every person who may be under contract for delivery of such articles may, if the contract was made without reference to the new duty, add the amount thereof to the price agreed upon, and recover accordingly.

A BAD DEBT.—The balance due to this country on account of the Greek Loan guaranteed by it has now reached £472,518. The sum which we have to pay, and are still paying is £47,000 a year. The last sum received by us from the Greek Government, in repayment of our advances, was as long ago as 1848, and the amount was only £7,740.

INTEREST ON THE RUSSO-DUTCH LOAN.—In answer to a question in the House of Commons, whether, while this country was at war with Russia, it was the intention of Government to furnish the Czar with the means of carrying on the war against this country by issuing any sums from the British Treasury towards the principal and for the interest of the debt called the Russo-Dutch Loan, contracted to be paid in consideration of the Russian Government adhering to the general arrangements of the Treaty of Vienna, one of such general arrangements being that the navigation of European rivers should be free, Lord J. Russell has stated that it is the intention of Her Majesty's Government to adhere to the obligation which they have incurred, and that there will be no ground for departing from engagements into which they have entered.

RUSSIAN DUTCH LOAN.—The principal remaining due is 15,500,000*fl.* Under 55th George III., cap. 115, we pay annually interest at 5 per cent., and 250,000*fl.* towards a sinking fund.

BANK MOVEMENTS.

THE Bank of Australasia, according to intelligence by the Marco Polo, have purchased an acre of land from the Australian Agricultural Company at Newcastle, New South Wales, for which they have given £1,500, for the purpose of establishing a branch bank.

THE Bank of Victoria, Port Philip, has declared a dividend of 10 per cent. for the half-year, after placing two-thirds of the profits to the surplus fund.

THE Irish Banks have raised their rates of discount, owing to the advance by the Bank of England.

THE directors of the National Bank of Ireland propose to commence business in London forthwith. They are also to take into consideration the desirableness of establishing a branch at Belfast.

THE capital of the Oriental Bank will shortly be further increased, the extension of business requiring additional resources.

Monetary Intelligence.

REVIEW OF THE MONEY MARKET FOR THE MONTH OF MAY, 1854.

THE events of the month, in connection with financial affairs, have proved of more than ordinary importance. In the midst of the alarm created by the unsettled position of the Bank of England, and the continuous drain of specie to the continent, the Chancellor of the Exchequer has completed his negotiation for the introduction of £2,000,000 of Exchequer-bonds, and has taken power to recruit his resources by an issue of £4,000,000 more till such period as proceeds from increased taxation shall be received. Almost concurrently with the first operation, the Bank directors were compelled to raise their terms of discount to 5½ per cent. to arrest the increasing demand for accommodation, not, however, before they endeavoured, by sales of stock and other expedients, to improve their situation. The state of their accounts has been a source of solicitude from week to week, the declension in the reserve, the decrease of bullion and the increase in private securities being the items which have naturally attracted attention; and to the present time, although the amount of unissued notes presents a more healthy total, apprehensions are entertained that further restrictive measures will be necessary. Temporarily, the exports of gold have diminished, and supplies to meet any partial renewal of shipments have been opportunely received from Australia and America; but while the foreign exchanges present symptoms of improvement, the internal demand continues considerable, and is not likely for the present materially to abate. The continuance of the war will keep money at high rates; and, notwithstanding the closer alliance with Austria and Prussia, which must greatly enhance the strength of opposition arrayed against the Czar, some time will, under the most auspicious circumstances, have to elapse before a peace, satisfactory to all parties, can be concluded. The demand for accommodation in Lombard-street has been particularly active at rates from a shade above the Bank *minimum* to 6 per cent. for short first-class paper. Other descriptions cannot be discounted under 6½ and 7 per cent. The allowance for deposits is 4½ per cent., and 4½ may be obtained in cases where an arrangement for a fixed period is completed.

The advance in the rate of interest on Exchequer-bills from 2d. to 2½d. per diem, was announced on the 24th of May. This is equivalent to an addition of 7s. 7d. per annum, and the yearly rate for the future will consequently be £3 8s. 5d. The last alteration took place in October, when an advance was adopted from 1d., at which they had stood for seven months, to 2d. per day. Thirteen years back a precisely similar rate was adopted, and the price then obtained was 15s. premium, Consols being a fraction above 90, and the bank rate of interest 5½ per cent., as at present. Consols, at the current price of 89, pay £3 7s. 5d. per annum interest, and Exchequer-bills will now yield 1s. per cent. in excess of that rate. Two alterations have been suggested to constitute Exchequer-bills a more available and steady security—namely, that they shall be receivable in payment of duties—a feature they once possessed, but which was curtailed some years ago; and that, instead of the interest being fixed at so many halfpence and farthings per day, the course pursued by the French Treasury, and also in the case of Indian-bonds, should be adopted of fixing a yearly rate of so much per cent. In the present instance an advance to £3 10s. per cent. would, it is properly remarked, have been much more convenient than to the awkward rate of 2½d. per day, or £3 8s. 5d. per annum.

The Court of Directors of the East India Company, also, on the 24th of May, passed a resolution raising the rate on India-bonds from £3 5s. per cent., at which they have stood from the 26th of October last, to £4 per cent., the alteration to commence from the former date.

Several alterations have taken place in the rates of interest, which show that the money markets of Europe stand in rather an anomalous position. While the Bank of England have raised their terms for accommodation, the Bank of France have simultaneously made a reduction, but this may be in a measure explained from the circumstance of the bullion of the one establishment having been increased by the drain from the other. The rate of the Bank of Prussia is now 4 instead of 5 per cent. at which point it stood from October last. At Amsterdam the money market is easy at 3 per cent., while in Hamburg accommodation can be freely secured for 2 per cent. Among the latest continental financial operations is a new Austrian loan of £3,500,000, for which subscriptions have been received from Amsterdam and Frankfort to the extent of £2,500,000.

Public securities of all descriptions have improved, Consols about 4 per cent., and foreign stocks and railway shares in adequate proportion. The latter have been materially influenced by the more favourable state of political relations, and the indisposition of the Bears to continue their accounts in the English market now that it is perceived Mr. Gladstone refrains from increasing the funded debt. The rise in foreign stocks and shares has been progressive, and quotations have been less liable to fluctuation. A most marked advance has taken place in the Russian, and the other northern bonds are held with greater firmness than for some time past. In addition to the other causes which favourably influence the prices of railway securities the steady development of traffic must be recognised as an important consideration. What adverse effect the dearthness of accommodation may produce in connection with the interest charges upon these undertakings remains to be ascertained; but, in the meanwhile, their prospects in other respects are more encouraging.

At the latest moment (the 29th May) Consols are 90½ to 91½. Exchequer-bills which, previously to the increase in the rate of interest were 2s. dis. to 1s. pm. have recovered to par to 4s. pm. Exchequer-bonds range on the average from ¼ to ¾ pm. India-bonds, from 15s. dis. have gone up to 2s. pm.

The shares of the Australian Banks have experienced a considerable improvement, and those of the land companies have likewise participated in the movement. Australian Agricultural and Van Dieman's Land have taken the

lead in the market; the former having risen from 40 to 48, and the latter from 11 to 15 per share.

The Mexican bondholders have agreed to dispatch Mr. J. L. Rickards to that republic as the representative of their interests. The allowance is to be £1,000 per annum, and the engagement for a period not exceeding three years. Mr. Falconnet, the late commissioner, is anxiously awaited in London, to give an account of his stewardship, but it appears there is some uncertainty about his return.

The value of most kinds of produce has become depressed. The tightness of money checking the ordinary facilities for business, the importers are in many cases compelled to realise at a sacrifice. The indigo sales have terminated at a reduction from 3*d.* to 1*s.* per lb., the absence of demand from Russia, and the limited purchases of the home trade producing the reaction. In the earlier part of the month there was a better demand for sugar, but a change has since taken place, and that article, with coffee, saltpetre and rice, exhibit a tendency to prolonged heaviness.

ENGLISH FUNDS.

	Price on April 29.	Highest.	Lowest.	Price on May 29.
Consols	87½ to 87¾	90	87½	91½
Exchequer Bills' average ..	2 <i>s.</i> dis. to 2 <i>s.</i> pm.	4 <i>s.</i> pm.	2 <i>s.</i> dis.	1 <i>s.</i> to 3 <i>s.</i> p.

FOREIGN STOCKS.

Brazilian	96	98½	96	97
Buenos Ayres	55½	55½	54	55½
Chilian	—	102	100½	102
Dutch	56¾	60½	56¾	60¾
Mexican	23¾	24½	23½	24½
Peruvian, 4½ per cent. ..	60	63	59½	62½
Portuguese, 4 per cent. ..	37½	38½	37½	38½
Russian	93	96	92½	97½
Spanish	36¾	39¾	36½	39¾

RAILWAY SHARES.

Brighton	98½	103	97½	103
Caledonian	53¾	57	52½	57
Eastern Counties	12¾	12½	11½	12½
Great Northern	86¾	89	85	89
Great Western	73	75½	71½	75½
London and North Western	96½	98½	94½	98½
Midland	58¾	60½	56½	60½
Lancashire and Yorkshire ..	60¾	62	58¾	62
North Staffordshire	—	13½	10½	13½
South Eastern	59¾	63	58	62½
South Western	77½	79	76	78½
York, Newcastle and Berwick	64½	67	64	66½
York and North Midland ..	45¾	49	44½	48½
Northern of France	29½	33½	29½	33½
East Indian	—	21½	21½	21½

STATE OF TRADE.

OPERATIONS in the manufacturing districts have been somewhat restricted, owing to the diminution of export orders and the unfavourable accounts from

Australia. The principal markets both at Port Philip and Sydney are glutted, and forced sales have consequently depreciated prices. Although the war with Russia has not interfered so largely as was expected with our general trading relations, the caution exercised checks, in a degree, the usual current of activity. The Preston strike has at length terminated.

THE CORN TRADE.

The *Gazette* returns for England and Wales have been—

Week ended 1854.	Wheat. Qrs. sold.	Weekly Average.		Six Weeks' Average.		Duty.		Corresponding Six Weeks Last Year.	
		s.	d.	s.	d.	s.	d.	s.	d.
April 22.....	54,353	..	79 11	..	77 4	..	1 0	..	44 9
„ 29.....	70,581	..	79 5	..	77 5	..	1 0	..	44 7
May 6.....	66,511	..	79 9	..	77 8	..	1 0	..	44 7
„ 13.....	57,450	..	78 9	..	78 3	..	1 0	..	44 7
„ 20.....	54,981	..	78 2	..	79 1	..	1 0	..	44 5

The importations since the harvest of 1853 have been:—

	Wheat. Qrs.	Other Grain. Qrs.	Total. Qrs.
Thirty-eight weeks ended 12th April....	4,240,441	2,617,246	6,857,687
Five weeks ended 17th May	637,349	443,945	1,081,294
	4,877,790	3,061,191	7,938,981

And the *weekly averages* have been—

Thirty-eight weeks ended 12th April....	111,000	69,000	180,000
Five weeks ended 17th May	127,000	89,000	216,000
More ..	16,000	20,000	36,000

The grain trade has maintained a steady appearance, with a tendency, on one or two occasions, to advance. The supplies of foreign have been large, but they have not proved sufficient to depress the market, the opinion continuing to prevail that, between the present period and the harvest, a considerable quantity will be required for consumption. The weather has been satisfactory for the progress of harvest operations, but complaints are still made that the nights are cold. We have experienced some rains, though it is generally thought they have been insufficient to meet the requirements of the farmer. The grass lands are not so forward in some districts as in others, but they are stated on the average to present a satisfactory appearance.

EAST INDIA REMITTANCES.

AMOUNT OF BILLS DRAWN FOR.

From the 24th of April to the 8th of May.....	Bengal.....	£16,772	9	9
	Madras	10,525	18	3
	Bombay	145	0	0
From the 9th of May to the 23rd of May.....	Bengal.....	74,692	5	6
	Madras	17,539	14	10
	Bombay	Nil.		
		£119,675	8	4

MONTHLY CHRONOLOGY.

April 29th.—The French Government direct the Russian Consuls to retire from Marseilles, Toulon, Havre and Bordeaux.—The bombardment of Odessa commenced.

May 1st.—Evacuation of Little Wallachia by the Russians.

3rd.—Intelligence of the capture of Peta by the Turks.—Ratification of the Austro-Prussian treaty.—Treasury notice issued respecting subscriptions to the new Exchequer-bonds.

8th.—Failure of Messrs. Reade Brothers, provision merchants.—The Chancellor of the Exchequer propounded his supplemental war budget in the House of Commons.

9th.—The Austrian Government opened subscriptions at Amsterdam and Frankfort for a loan of £3,500,000.

11th.—The Bank of England raises its rate of interest to $5\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.—The Bank of France reduces its rate of interest to 4 per cent.

15th.—Bombardment of Silistria commenced.—Message from the Queen to both Houses of Parliament announcing the embodying of the militia.

16th.—A levy of 95,000 men ordered by the Prussian Government.

17th.—The Russians defeated at Nicopolis on the 28th ult., with a loss of 1,500 men.

18th.—Change in the Turkish Ministry.

19th.—Sebastopol reported to have been cannonaded by the combined fleets.

23rd.—Blockade of Riga, Libau and Windau declared.—Neutrality of Portugal announced.

24th.—Notice issued of the increase of the rate of interest on Exchequer-bills from 2d. to $2\frac{1}{2}$ d. per day.—The East India Directors gave notice of the raising of the rate on India-bonds from £3 5s. to £4 per cent.

25th.—Treaty between England, France, Austria and Prussia, in which the separate treaties previously concluded between France and England on the one hand, and Austria and Prussia on the other, are recognised and adopted.—Austria and Prussia send a joint summons to Russia to evacuate the Turkish territories.

NOTICES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

The periodical bank meetings have pressed largely upon our space, but the proceedings have been important and interesting. The results, in all cases, exhibit satisfactory progress. At the last moment the report of the Ionian Bank is obliged to stand over. The dividend declared is 5 per cent. Under these circumstances, we are again compelled to defer several contributions, including letters, &c.: one especially, on the Bank Charter, which shall appear as soon as possible.

All communications, except they involve important questions, should be sent at the latest by the 20th of the month.

P. Z. (Barnard Castle).—*Bullion's Letters on the Management of a Country Bank* may be obtained (price 5s.) from Messrs. Groombridge and Sons. It is just the very volume our correspondent will find useful.

AN ALLOTTEE.—The earlier proceedings in Chancery against the Chartered Bank of India, Australia and China have been unsuccessful, but the motion for an appeal upon the refusal to grant an injunction, will be brought before the Lords Justices, on the 8rd of June.

A FOREIGN BANKER.—The bankers and merchants of the metropolis strenuously oppose the scheme for stamping foreign bills of exchange, and have prepared a petition to Parliament on the subject.

BANKRUPTCY REFORM.—It has been announced in the House of Commons, that no measure founded on the report of the Bankruptcy Commissioners will be introduced this session.

	20	27	28	29	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
Bank Stock (div. 9 per Ct.) -	305	305 1/2	305	305	304 1/2	304 1/2	304 1/2	304 1/2	304 1/2	304 1/2	304 1/2	304 1/2	304 1/2	304 1/2	304 1/2	304 1/2	304 1/2	304 1/2	304 1/2	304 1/2	304 1/2	304 1/2	304 1/2	304 1/2	304 1/2	304 1/2	304 1/2	304 1/2	304 1/2	304 1/2
3 per Ct. Red. Anns. -	86 1/2	86 1/2	86 1/2	86 1/2	86 1/2	86 1/2	86 1/2	86 1/2	86 1/2	86 1/2	86 1/2	86 1/2	86 1/2	86 1/2	86 1/2	86 1/2	86 1/2	86 1/2	86 1/2	86 1/2	86 1/2	86 1/2	86 1/2	86 1/2	86 1/2	86 1/2	86 1/2	86 1/2	86 1/2	86 1/2
3 per Ct. Consol. Anns. -	87 1/2	87 1/2	87 1/2	87 1/2	87 1/2	87 1/2	87 1/2	87 1/2	87 1/2	87 1/2	87 1/2	87 1/2	87 1/2	87 1/2	87 1/2	87 1/2	87 1/2	87 1/2	87 1/2	87 1/2	87 1/2	87 1/2	87 1/2	87 1/2	87 1/2	87 1/2	87 1/2	87 1/2	87 1/2	87 1/2
3 1/2 per cent. Anns. -	87 1/2	87 1/2	87 1/2	87 1/2	87 1/2	87 1/2	87 1/2	87 1/2	87 1/2	87 1/2	87 1/2	87 1/2	87 1/2	87 1/2	87 1/2	87 1/2	87 1/2	87 1/2	87 1/2	87 1/2	87 1/2	87 1/2	87 1/2	87 1/2	87 1/2	87 1/2	87 1/2	87 1/2	87 1/2	87 1/2
New 2 1/2 per cent. -	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	75
5 per cent. -	114	114	114	114	114	114	114	114	114	114	114	114	114	114	114	114	114	114	114	114	114	114	114	114	114	114	114	114	114	114
Long Anns. Jan. 5, 1860 -	42	42	42	42	42	42	42	42	42	42	42	42	42	42	42	42	42	42	42	42	42	42	42	42	42	42	42	42	42	42
Ditto 30 years, Oct. 10, 1859 -	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41
Ditto 30 years, Jan. 5, 1860 -	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41
Ditto 30 years, Jan. 5, 1860 -	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41
Ditto 30 years, Jan. 5, 1860 -	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41
Ditto 30 years, Jan. 5, 1860 -	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41
Ditto 30 years, Jan. 5, 1860 -	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41
Ditto 30 years, Jan. 5, 1860 -	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41
Ditto 30 years, Jan. 5, 1860 -	41	41	41	41																										

	£40 sh.	£10 0	0 pl.	£7 6
Australia	-	-	-	-
British North American	50	50	0	61
Commercial of London	-	-	-	32
Columbia	100	25	0	32
London and Westminster	100	20	0	35
London Joint Stock	50	10	0	35
Oriental Bank	25	25	0	47
Provincial of Ireland	-	-	-	50
National of Ireland	50	25	0	50
National Provincial of England	100	35	0	51
South Australian	-	-	-	49
Union of Australia	25	25	0	49
Union of London	-	-	-	71
London and County	50	10	0	54
London Chartered of Australia	-	-	-	33
English, Scottish, and Australian Chartered	20	20	0	21
Bank of India, China, and Australia	20	12	0	84
New South Wales	20	2	0	37

Brazilian Bonds, 5 per Cent.	96
Chilian Bonds, 6 per Cent.	100
Danish 5 per Cent.	97
Mexican 5 per Cent.	244
Peruvian 4½ per Cent.	63
Portuguese Bonds, 4 per Cent.	36
Russian Bonds, 1822 5per Cent. in £ Ster.	96
Ditto, 44 per Cent.	83
Spanish Bonds 3 per Cent.	36
Ditto, Passive	3
Ditto, 3 per Cent. Deferred	194
(Dividends on the above payable in London.)	
Austrian 5 per Cent.	—
Belgian Bonds, 4½ per Cent.	614
Dutch 2½ per Cent.	—
Ditto 4 per Cent. Loan	84
French 4½ per Cent., at Paris, May 20	94½ pce.
Ditto 2 per Cent., ditto	96½ pce.

COMPANY.	Paid up £	Prices	
		April 27.	May 27.
Caledonian ..	..	100	53½
Eastern Counties ..	..	20	124
Great Northern ..	..	100	86½
Great Western ..	..	100	75½
London and Blackwall ..	13½	8	81
London and Brighton ..	100	93	102½
———— North-West ..	100	96	99½
———— South-West ..	100	76½	79½
Midland ..	..	100	60½
North British ..	..	100	33½
North Eastern ..	..	100	30½
York, Newcastle, & Berwick ..	100	59	63
York, Newcastle, & North Midland ..	1100	64½	67
York & North Midland ..	1100	45½	48

The closing prices of the day are quoted.

Bank of England Weekly Returns.

Account, pursuant to the Act 7th and 8th of Victoria, cap. 32, for the Weeks ending as follows.

ISSUE DEPARTMENT.

	1854. April 22nd.	1854. April 29th.	1854. May 6th.	1854. May 13th.
Notes issued.....	£ 26,562,010	£ 26,188,460	£ 25,874,730	£ 25,837,270
Government debt.....	11,015,100	11,015,100	11,015,100	11,015,100
Other securities	2,984,900	2,984,900	2,984,900	2,984,900
Gold coin and bullion	12,562,010	12,188,460	11,874,730	11,857,270
Silver bullion	—	—	—	—
	26,562,010	26,188,460	25,874,730	25,837,270

BANKING DEPARTMENT.

	1854. April 22nd.	1854. April 29th.	1854. May 6th.	1854. May 13th.
Proprietors' capital.....	£ 14,553,000	£ 14,553,000	£ 14,553,000	£ 14,553,000
Rest	3,166,453	3,172,185	3,204,862	3,214,897
Public deposits (including Ex- chequer, Savings' Banks, Com- missioners of National Debt, and Dividend Accounts)	1,767,723	2,018,493	2,338,822	2,748,437
Other deposits	12,053,525	11,316,803	10,688,531	10,587,010
Seven day and other bills	1,189,999	1,126,996	1,164,631	1,111,563
	32,729,800	32,187,477	31,949,846	32,214,907
Government securities (including Dead Weight Annuity)	13,349,067	13,080,679	12,566,607	11,625,492
Other securities	14,336,835	14,438,192	14,749,460	15,144,039
Notes.....	4,291,515	3,941,140	3,900,430	4,713,280
Gold and silver coin	752,083	737,466	733,349	732,996
	32,729,800	32,187,477	31,949,846	32,214,907

The Exchanges.

	April 21st.	April 28th.	May 5th.	May 12th.
Amsterdam, short ..	11 13½	11 13	11 13½	11 13½
Ditto 3 months..	11 15½	11 15	11 16½	11 15½
Rotterdam, ditto ..	11 15½	11 15½	11 16½	11 15½
Antwerp, ditto ..	25 17½	25 17½	25 17½	25 17½
Brussels, ditto	25 17½	25 17½	25 17½	25 17½
Hamburg, ditto....	13 5	13 4½	13 4½	13 5
Paris, short	25 0	24 9½	24 9½	24 9½
Paris, 3 months	25 30	25 30	25 30	25 30
Marseilles, ditto	25 32½	25 32½	25 32½	25 30
Frankfort, ditto	118½	118½	118½	118½
Vienna, ditto.....	13 50	14 0	13 50	13 44
Trieste, ditto.....	13 53	14 0	14 52	13 46
Petersburgh, ditto ..	34	32½	34	34
Madrid, ditto	50½	50½	50½	50½
Cadiz, ditto	50½	50½	50½	50½
Leghorn, ditto	30 57½	30 52½	30 52½	30 52½
Genoa, ditto	25 65	25 52½	25 52½	25 52½
Naples, ditto.....	41½	41½	42	41½
Palermo, ditto	125	126½	126½	126½
Messina, ditto	125½	126½	126½	126½
Lisbon, 60 days' date	53	53½	53½	53½
Oporto, ditto	53½	53½	53½	53½
Rio Janeiro, ditto ..	—	—	—	—

PRICES OF BULLION.

	Per Ounce.	Per Ounce.	Per Ounce.	Per Ounce.
Foreign Gold in Bars, (Standard)	£3 17 9	£3 17 9	£3 17 9	£3 17 9
Mexican Dollars	0 0 0	0 5 0½	0 5 0½	0 5 0½
Silver in Bars (Stand.)	0 0 0	0 5 1½	0 5 1½	0 5 1½

Bankers' Weekly Circulation Returns.

Pursuant to the Act 7 & 8 Victoria, c. 32; extracted from the LONDON GAZETTES.

PRIVATE BANKS.

NAME OF BANK.	Authorised Issue.	AVERAGE AMOUNT.			
		Mar. 29.	April 1.	April 3.	April 5.
		£	£	£	£
1 Andover Bank	17,751	12,651	12,920	12,086	12,140
2 Ashford Bank	11,849	11,899	12,575	12,801	10,070
3 Aylsham Bank	5,854	4,530	4,547	4,660	4,666
4 Aylesbury Old Bank	48,461	29,488	29,281	30,023	30,680
5 Baldock and Biggleswade Bank ...	37,223	27,275	26,788	28,101	27,941
6 Barnstaple Bank	17,182	11,892	12,167	12,305	11,744
7 Basingstoke and Odiham Bank ...	24,730	17,570	17,786	18,013	18,420
8 Bedford Bank	34,218	32,397	32,817	32,793	33,869
9 Bewdley Bank	18,597	12,323	13,755	12,328	12,275
10 Bicester and Oxfordshire Bank ...	27,090	14,954	14,801	15,344	15,407
11 Birmingham Bank—Attwoods & Co.	23,695	24,227	25,297	23,214	21,501
12 Birmingham and Warwickshire Bk.	18,132	9,815	9,472	9,974	11,680
13 Blandford Bank	9,723	8,135	8,165	8,396	9,026
14 Boston Bank—Garfit and Co.	75,069	66,686	69,625	80,413	73,445
15 Boston Bank—Gee and Co.	15,161	14,910	14,672	15,069	15,329
16 Bridgewater Bank	10,028	7,540	6,781	6,961	7,321
17 Bristol Bank	48,277	37,807	40,954	41,345	41,138
18 Broseley and Bridgenorth Bank ...	26,717	16,949	17,615	18,009	18,235
19 Buckingham Bank	29,557	21,741	21,456	22,097	22,768
20 Bury and Suffolk Bank	82,362	68,866	69,925	70,517	70,343
21 Banbury Bank	43,457	34,924	36,285	37,597	37,061
22 Banbury Old Bank	55,153	25,620	26,044	26,450	26,117
23 Bath City Bank	4,572	3,521	3,658	3,219	3,491
24 Bedfordshire Leighton Buzzard Bk.	36,829	36,507	36,462	35,992	37,284
25 Birmingham Bk.—Taylor & Lloyds	38,816	32,291	33,333	34,858	39,454
26 Bradford Old Bank	12,676	11,236	10,941	11,325	12,144
27 Brecon Old Bank	68,271	64,577	64,023	64,772	68,616
28 Brighton Union Bank	33,794	24,931	26,375	28,596	28,939
29 Burlington and Driffield Bank	12,745	12,403	12,252	12,464	12,367
30 Bury St. Edmund's Bank	3,201	1,931	2,316	2,415	2,448
31 Cambridge Bk.—Mortlock & Co.	25,744	16,440	16,651	17,542	17,974
32 Cambridge and Cambridgeshire Bk.	49,916	43,715	45,032	44,943	44,750
33 Canterbury Bank	33,671	33,530	34,875	33,761	31,842
34 Carnarthen Bank	23,597	23,021	23,073	22,962	23,180
35 Chertsey Bank	3,436	3,007	3,385	3,424	3,144
36 Colchester Bank	25,082	16,310	18,314	18,874	18,213
37 Colchester and Essex Bank	48,704	28,912	30,497	31,292	31,985
38 Cornish Bank—Tweedy & Co.	49,869	49,147	48,360	48,111	47,865
39 Coventry Bank	12,045	5,815	6,224	6,755	6,813
40 City Bank, Exeter	21,527	21,515	21,518	21,482	21,471
41 Craven Bank—Alcocks & Co.	77,154	73,454	74,735	76,331	77,519
42 Cardiff Bank	7,001	6,391	6,391	6,171	6,497
43 Chepstow Old Bank	9,387	8,541	9,200	9,056	9,096
44 Derby Bank—Messrs. Evans	13,332	13,051	13,423	13,164	12,991
45 Derby Bank—Smith and Co.	41,304	40,730	40,785	41,192	40,580
46 Derby Old Bank	27,237	27,797	27,087	26,271	26,867
47 Devizes and Wiltshire Bank	20,674	8,650	9,145	9,523	9,613
48 Diss Bank	10,657	10,591	10,467	10,188	10,291
49 Doncaster Bank and Retford Bank	77,400	71,947	72,916	76,224	78,029
50 Darlington Bank ..	86,218	86,989	87,124	83,655	83,435

WEEKLY RETURNS OF BANKS OF ISSUE.

NAME OF BANK.	Authorized Issue.	AVERAGE AMOUNT.			
		Mar. 26.	April 1.	April 8.	April 15.
	£	£	£	£	£
51 Devonport Bank	10,664	10,245	10,190	10,572	10,705
52 Dorchester Old Bank	48,807	46,245	47,365	49,730	51,399
53 East Cornwall Bk.—Robins & Co.	112,280	107,606	108,631	109,342	108,586
54 East Riding Bank—Bower & Co.	53,392	51,109	51,569	52,846	53,557
55 Essex Bk. & Bishops Stortford Bk.	69,637	41,448	45,202	45,563	45,295
56 Exeter Bank	37,894	27,065	27,723	28,274	27,930
57 Fakenham Bank	24,293	21,439	22,157	22,499	22,476
58 Faringdon Bk. & Bk. of Wantage	8,977	6,616	6,651	7,458	7,473
59 Farnham Bank	14,202	12,166	11,945	11,864	11,812
60 Faversham Bank	6,681	6,153	6,204	6,180	6,302
61 Godalming Bank	6,322	5,528	5,298	5,506	5,589
62 Guildford Bank	14,524	5,540	6,021	6,439	6,908
63 Grantham Bank—Hardy and Co.	30,372	24,244	25,010	26,938	27,284
64 Hastings Old Bank	38,038	33,942	34,321	35,004	34,154
65 Hereford City and County Bank	22,364	17,390	18,360	17,974	17,762
66 Hertford and Ware Bank	23,635	19,527	20,538	20,554	20,549
67 Hull & Kingston-upon-Hull Bank	19,979	19,685	21,513	20,070	18,594
68 Huntingdon Town & County Bank	56,591	42,395	41,875	43,373	44,110
69 Harwich Bank	5,778	5,312	5,274	5,798	5,882
70 Hemel Hempstead Bank	23,842	24,635	24,258	23,254	22,899
71 Hertfordshire, Hitchin Bank	38,764	36,217	37,690	38,255	38,716
72 Hereford, Ross, & Archenfield Bk.	27,625	22,994	22,845	22,483	22,767
73 Ipswich Bank	21,901	18,468	19,140	19,283	19,795
74 Ipswich & Needham Market Bank	80,699	59,311	61,874	63,186	63,228
75 Kentish Bank—Mercer & Co.	19,895	13,522	13,630	14,448	15,221
76 Kington and Radnorshire Bank	26,050	25,978	26,036	25,982	26,005
77 Knighton Bank	9,090	9,634	9,260	8,680	8,619
78 Knaresborough Old Bank	21,825	21,850	22,122	21,800	20,451
79 Kendal Bank	44,663	42,973	42,556	42,040	44,912
80 Kettering Bank	9,192	7,934	8,454	8,704	9,045
81 Lane End Staffordshire Bank	5,624	5,297	5,355	5,440	5,375
82 Leeds Bank	53,357	53,641	54,563	52,956	51,732
83 Leeds Union Bank	37,459	37,473	37,531	37,877	36,804
84 Leicester Bank	32,322	30,829	29,729	29,616	30,720
85 Lewes Old Bank	44,816	30,574	29,953	20,770	30,281
86 Lichfield Bank	22,786	10,660	10,760	11,009	12,409
87 Lincoln Bank	100,342	86,816	90,628	94,831	95,107
88 Llandoverly Bank & Llandilo Bank	32,945	17,192	16,626	16,527	19,434
89 Loughborough Bank	7,359	7,517	7,515	7,190	6,914
90 Lymington Bank	5,038	4,110	4,050	4,276	4,341
91 Lynn Regis and Lincolnshire Bank	42,817	33,798	32,824	35,605	36,491
92 Lynn Regis and Norfolk Bank	13,917	10,604	11,374	12,558	12,474
93 Macclesfield Bank	15,760	13,839	14,553	15,396	16,026
94 Manningtree Bank	7,692	2,906	2,959	3,043	2,691
95 Merionethshire Bank	10,906	7,428	7,557	7,096	6,674
96 Miners' Bank	18,688	17,117	16,824	16,616	16,641
97 Monmouthshire Agricultural and Commercial Bank	29,335	28,081	27,915	29,358	30,305
98 Monmouth Old Bank	16,385	14,560	14,379	14,785	14,012
99 Newark Bank	28,788	26,097	26,398	27,059	27,178
100 Newark and Sleaford Bank	51,615	47,552	48,480	50,837	51,173
101 Newbury Bank	36,787	19,076	20,075	20,254	20,523
102 Newmarket Bank	23,098	16,918	16,997	17,325	17,268
103 Norwich Crown Bank and Norfolk and Suffolk Bank	49,671	46,598	47,416	48,473	48,537
104 Norwich and Norfolk Bank	75,372	69,441	71,818	74,958	75,948
105 Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Bank	10,866	9,352	9,831	10,494	10,594

WEEKLY RETURNS OF BANKS OF ISSUE.

NAME OF BANK.	Authorised Issue.	AVERAGE AMOUNT.			
		Mar. 25.	April 1.	April 8.	April 15.
	£	£	£	£	£
106 Nuneaton Bank	5,898	3,339	3,501	3,708	3,418
107 Naval Bank, Plymouth	27,321	23,855	25,105	27,395	27,120
108 New Sarum Bk.—Everett & Smith	15,659	11,310	11,626	11,939	11,618
109 Nottingham Bank	31,047	29,145	30,966	32,279	31,263
110 Oswestry Bank	18,471	10,918	10,439	11,290	11,228
111 Oxford Old Bank	34,391	31,909	32,273	33,239	32,680
112 Old Bank, Tonbridge	13,183	8,505	9,195	9,715	9,670
113 Oxfordshire Witney Bank	11,852	9,498	9,751	10,131	10,187
114 Pease's Old Bank, Hull	48,807	47,515	47,856	47,897	47,152
115 Penzance Bank	11,405	10,362	11,415	11,707	11,009
116 Peterborough Bank—Yorke & Co.	12,545	7,885	8,362	8,851	9,131
117 Pembrokehire Bank	12,910	10,918	9,727	9,667	10,400
118 Reading Bank—Simmonds & Co.	37,519	27,289	27,531	27,862	28,559
119 Reading Bk.—Stephens & Blandy	43,271	29,048	28,991	30,013	31,011
120 Richmond Bank, Richmond	6,889	6,092	6,280	7,049	7,275
121 Rochdale Bank	5,590	4,785	4,921	5,116	4,778
122 Rochester, Chatham, & Strood Bk.	10,480	7,711	7,986	8,249	8,510
123 Royston Bank	16,393	13,410	12,914	12,643	13,387
124 Rugby Bank	17,250	12,404	13,215	13,030	13,318
125 Rye Bank	29,864	13,582	15,560	17,372	16,656
126 Ross Old Bank, Herefordshire ...	4,420	4,333	4,380	4,326	3,975
127 Saffron Walden & North Essex Bk.	47,646	29,091	29,379	29,011	28,614
128 Salop Bank	22,338	15,431	15,662	16,207	16,179
129 Scarborough Old Bank	24,813	24,324	24,380	24,286	24,279
130 Shrewsbury Old Bank	43,191	42,100	42,753	44,326	40,771
131 Sittingbourne and Milton Bank	4,789	2,120	2,065	2,068	2,067
132 Southampton Town & County Bk.	18,589	13,275	13,462	15,605	15,761
133 Southwell Bank	14,744	12,119	11,959	12,404	12,631
134 Southampton and Hampshire Bk.	6,770	3,410	3,805	3,819	3,677
135 Stafford Old Bank	14,166	11,626	12,424	12,483	13,404
136 Stamford and Rutland Bank	31,858	28,978	30,862	30,862	32,433
137 Shrewsbury and Welsh Pool Bank	25,336	26,282	24,723	24,080	24,255
138 Taunton Bank	29,799	26,639	26,946	26,790	26,946
139 Tavistock Bank	13,421	12,300	12,134	12,540	12,140
140 Thornbury Bank	10,026	6,611	6,930	7,002	7,127
141 Tiverton and Devonshire Bank	13,470	10,530	10,891	10,977	10,800
142 Thrapstone and Kettering Bank	11,559	11,772	11,161	11,169	10,960
143 Tring Bank and Chesham Bank	13,531	12,700	13,220	14,494	13,375
144 Towcester Old Bank	10,801	8,348	9,118	8,969	8,616
145 Town and County of Poole Bk. and Ringwood and Poole Bk.	11,856	10,102	10,268	10,499	11,696
146 Union Bank, Cornwall	17,003	10,833	12,428	13,094	12,051
147 Uxbridge Old Bank	25,136	14,895	15,184	16,434	16,846
148 Wallingford Bank	17,064	8,335	8,084	7,753	7,282
149 Warwick & Warwickshire Bank	30,504	22,352	22,725	23,656	24,842
150 Wellington Bank, Somerset	6,528	4,421	4,320	4,048	3,863
151 West Riding Bank	46,158	45,974	44,916	46,986	46,133
152 Whithy Old Bank	14,258	14,025	14,477	14,269	14,090
153 Winchester, Alresford & Alton Bk.	25,892	20,895	20,231	21,250	21,358
154 Winchester and Hampshire Bank	6,737	3,881	4,003	4,763	4,905
155 Weymouth Old Bank	16,461	14,087	14,392	15,567	16,116
156 Wirksworth and Derbyshire Bk.	37,602	37,130	37,511	36,854	36,976
157 Wisbeach and Lincolnshire Bank	59,713	46,649	47,802	48,700	50,722
158 Wiveliscombe Bank	7,602	6,890	7,152	7,363	7,487
159 Wolverhampton Bk.—Goodricke and Co.	14,180	12,093	12,664	12,834	14,096
160 Worcester Bank	15,463	7,826	8,576	8,603	8,844
161 Worcester Old Bank	87,448	67,408	68,875	69,096	69,412

WEEKLY RETURNS OF BANKS OF ISSUE.

NAME OF BANK.	Authorised Issue.	AVERAGE AMOUNT.			
		Mar. 25.	April 1.	April 8.	April 16.
162 Worcestershire Bank	£ 14,309	£ 8,601	£ 8,644	£ 8,504	£ 9,058
163 Wolverhampton Bank—R. & W. Fryer	11,867	10,750	10,348	11,085	11,971
164 Yarmouth and Suffolk Bank	53,060	39,357	39,806	41,245	41,085
165 Yarmouth, Norfolk, & Suffolk Bk.	13,229	11,482	11,885	12,070	12,372
166 York Bank	46,387	44,307	44,502	46,514	47,299

JOINT STOCK BANKS.

1 Bank of Westmoreland.....	12,225	9,338	9,627	10,021	10,130
2 Barnsley Banking Company	9,563	9,699	9,550	9,191	9,380
3 Bradford Banking Company	49,292	45,763	47,080	50,296	51,688
4 Bilston District Banking Company	9,418	9,300	10,280	8,687	9,150
5 Bank of Whitehaven	32,681	30,920	30,615	31,290	30,687
6 Bradford Commercial Banking Co.	20,084	20,540	20,240	19,466	19,816
7 Barton, Uttoxeter, and Staffordshire Union Bank	60,701	60,919	64,048	57,559	55,218
8 Chesterfield & N. Derbysh. Bk. Co.	10,421	10,360	10,976	10,289	9,359
9 Cumberland Union Banking Co....	35,395	34,885	35,394	34,389	34,430
10 Cheltenham & Glo'stershire Bk. Co.	12,786	10,413	10,242	10,325	10,788
11 Coventry and Warwickshire Bk. Co.	28,734	25,041	27,150	27,025	26,928
12 Coventry Union Banking Company	16,251	15,934	17,513	16,460	14,291
13 County of Gloucester Banking Co.	44,352	110,226	112,769	116,181	118,335
14 Carlisle & Cumberland Banking Co.	25,610	24,841	25,396	26,695	25,448
15 Carlisle City and District Bank ...	19,972	20,095	20,197	20,113	19,363
16 Dudley & West Bromwich Bk. Co.	37,696	35,453	38,157	38,581	35,331
17 Derby and Derbyshire Banking Co.	20,093	20,237	19,778	19,018	19,135
18 Darlington Dist. Joint Stock Bk. Co.	26,134	19,900	20,148	22,777	23,135
19 East of England Bank	25,025	24,514	26,474	23,838	24,098
20 Gloucestershire Banking Company	155,920	151,031	156,704	157,347	151,875
21 Halifax Joint Stock Bank.....	18,534	18,570	18,409	18,438	18,406
22 Huddersfield Banking Company...	37,354	37,792	34,916	33,240	37,647
23 Hull Banking Company	29,333	28,402	28,854	31,145	27,849
24 Halifax Commercial Banking Co...	13,733	13,539	13,405	13,585	13,910
25 Halifax & Huddersfield Union Bk.	44,137	43,713	42,675	43,411	45,141
26 Helston Banking Company	1,503	1,479	1,500	1,525	1,389
27 Herefordshire Banking Company..	25,047	17,155	18,699	17,339	18,575
28 Knaresborough and Claro Bk. Co.	28,059	27,855	27,259	27,759	28,746
29 Kingsbridge Joint Stock Bank	3,952	3,849	3,935	4,085	3,867
30 Lancaster Banking Company	64,311	58,387	58,278	61,028	62,201
31 Leeds Banking Company	23,076	23,965	24,576	24,410	18,561
32 Leicestershire Banking Company...	86,060	77,418	80,065	85,751	87,994
33 Lincoln and Lindsey Banking Co.	51,620	50,184	51,735	51,900	48,727
34 Leamington Priors and Warwick- shire Bank	13,875	12,035	11,702	12,945	13,201
35 Ludlow and Tenbury Bank	10,215	10,007	10,001	9,795	10,238

WEEKLY RETURNS OF BANKS OF ISSUE.

NAME OF BANK.	Authorised Issue. £	AVERAGE AMOUNT.			
		Mar. 25.	April 1.	April 8.	April 15.
36 Moore & Robinson's Notts. Bank...	35,813	33,705	35,800	37,031	35,117
37 Nottingham and Notts. Banking Co.	29,477	28,510	29,343	29,070	28,800
38 National Provincial Bk. of England	442,371	431,121	421,767	416,969	418,784
39 North Wilts Banking Company ...	63,939	46,945	49,400	49,232	49,090
40 Northamptonshire Union Bank ...	84,356	75,968	77,629	80,312	79,770
41 Northamptonshire Banking Co. ...	26,401	24,744	25,972	27,284	26,160
42 North and South Wales Bank.....	63,951	40,982	46,284	45,705	44,422
43 Pare's Leicestershire Banking Co...	59,300	53,692	56,245	59,317	58,457
44 Saddleworth Banking Company ...	8,122	2,158	2,325	2,433	2,525
45 Sheffield Banking Company.....	35,843	37,996	38,971	34,630	30,796
46 Stamford, Spalding & Boston Bk. Co.	55,721	50,370	52,498	55,555	58,205
47 Stuckey's Banking Company	356,976	353,075	353,890	347,869	343,685
48 Shropshire Banking Company.....	47,951	47,532	50,720	49,602	42,828
49 Stourbridge and Kidderminster Bk.	56,830	56,535	56,919	57,108	56,071
50 Sheffield and Hallamshire Bank ...	23,524	23,859	24,546	24,020	21,372
51 Sheffield & Rotherham Jt. Stock Bk.	52,496	53,034	53,142	50,884	52,001
52 Swaledale and Wensleydale Bank..	54,372	51,523	52,310	52,445	52,476
53 Storey and Thomas's Bank	9,714	9,988	9,531	9,442	9,305
54 Wolverhampton & Staffordsh. Bk..	35,378	36,537	36,190	34,900	33,479
55 Wakefield and Barnsley Union Bk.	14,604	13,046	13,279	13,540	13,635
56 Whitehaven Joint Stock Bank ...	31,916	29,018	29,695	31,138	30,725
57 Warwick and Leamington Bk. Co.	37,124	30,827	31,952	34,324	33,366
58 West of England and South Wales District Bank	83,535	88,138	84,049	75,448	70,818
59 Wilts & Dorset Banking Company	76,162	73,758	74,294	73,785	75,840
60 West Riding Union Banking Co....	34,029	33,230	33,660	34,092	34,500
61 Whitechurch and Ellesmere Bk. Co.	7,475	5,578	5,779	5,590	5,345
62 Worcester City and County Bk. Co.	6,848	5,152	5,120	5,626	5,937
63 York Union Banking Company ...	71,240	69,489	70,239	72,822	71,881
64 York City and County Banking Co.	94,695	91,735	92,037	92,350	91,634
65 Yorkshire Banking Company	122,532	125,560	128,823	121,020	112,387

Summary of the above Returns.

	Fixed Issues. £	Mar. 25. £	April 1. £	April 8. £	April 15. £
166 Private Banks	4,607,455	3,817,983	3,875,154	3,953,648	3,971,010
65 Joint Stock Banks ..	3,325,857	3,137,564	3,180,756	3,169,847	3,124,448
231 Totals.....	7,933,312	6,955,547	7,055,910	7,123,495	7,095,458

Average Weekly Circulation of these Banks for the month ending April 15th:—

Private Banks	£3,904,449
Joint Stock Banks	3,153,154

*Average Weekly Circulation of Private and Joint Stock Banks
ending as above* £7,057,603

*On a comparison of the above with the Returns for the Month ending 18th March
last, it shows—*

An increase in the Notes of Private Banks, of.....	£92,768
An increase in the Notes of Joint Stock Banks, of	76,769

Total increase on the Month..... £169,537

CIRCULATION RETURNS.

And as compared with the Month ending 16th April, 1853, it shows—

An increase in the Notes of Private Banks, of	£41,915
An increase in the Notes of Joint Stock Banks, of	21,074

Total increase, as compared with the same period of last year.... £61,989

The following appears to be the comparative state of the circulation, as regards the fixed issues—

The Private Banks are below their fixed issues	£703,006
The Joint Stock Banks are below their fixed issues	172,703

Total below the fixed issues..... £875,709

Irish and Scotch Circulation Returns.

Average Circulation, and Coin held by the IRISH and SCOTCH BANKS during the four weeks ending Saturday, the 15th day of April, 1854.

IRISH BANKS.

NAME OF BANK.	Authorised Circulation.	Average Circulation during Four Weeks, ending as above.			Average Amount of Gold & Silver Coin held during Four Weeks ending as above.
		£5 and upwards.	Under £5.	Total.	
	£	£	£	£	£
Bank of Ireland.....	3,738,428	1,915,700	1,319,675	3,235,375	805,923
Provincial Bank of Ireland	927,667	363,641	630,395	994,035	271,074
Belfast Bank	281,611	60,800	442,015	502,815	267,756
Northern Bank	243,440	37,255	252,522	289,777	80,910
Ulster Bank	311,079	48,387	461,333	509,721	219,230
National Bank of Ireland...	761,757	411,210	613,282	1,024,492	412,829
Carrick-on-Suir Nat. Bank	24,084	9,893	15,002	24,896	4,000
Clonmel National Bank ...	66,428	29,047	31,252	60,300	11,393
TOTALS (Irish Banks) ...	6,354,494	2,875,933	3,765,476	6,641,411	2,073,115

SCOTCH BANKS.

Bank of Scotland	300,485	128,796	252,028	380,824	138,041
Royal Bank of Scotland ...	183,000	63,955	114,049	178,004	53,773
British Linen Company	438,024	167,907	302,781	470,688	158,389
Commercial Bk. of Scotland	374,880	155,714	321,151	476,866	165,211
National Bank of Scotland..	297,024	108,371	219,649	328,021	70,720
Union Bank of Scotland and Banking Com. in Aberdeen	415,690	174,117	332,498	506,615	173,675
Edinburgh & Glasgow Bk...	136,657	59,255	89,843	149,098	49,155
Aberdeen Town and Co. Bk.	70,133	34,941	65,981	100,922	36,198
North of Scotland Bk. Co...	154,319	83,765	100,540	184,305	55,387
Dundee Banking Company	33,451	13,850	21,905	35,755	6,872
Eastern Bank of Scotland...	33,636	18,120	24,280	42,400	13,072
Western Bank of Scotland..	337,938	138,560	362,328	500,888	278,253
Clydesdale Banking Co. ...	104,028	33,301	98,469	131,770	59,652
City of Glasgow Bank	72,921	79,848	100,651	180,500	125,995
Caledonian Banking Co. ...	53,434	20,012	47,320	67,332	26,969
Perth Banking Company ...	38,656	13,783	30,451	44,234	16,412
Central Bank of Scotland...	42,933	19,708	36,167	55,876	20,456
TOTALS (Scotch Banks)...	3,087,209	1,314,003	2,520,091	3,834,098	1,448,230

CIRCULATION RETURNS.

SUMMARY OF IRISH & SCOTCH RETURNS TO APRIL 15, 1854.

The Returns of Circulation of the Irish and Scotch Banks for the four weeks ending 15th April, when added together, give the following as the average weekly circulation of these banks during the past month, viz. :—

Average Circulation of the Irish Banks... £6,641,411
Average Circulation of the Scotch Banks 3,834,098

Total Average Circulation of these Banks
for the past month £10,475,509

On comparing these amounts with the Returns for the month ending 18th March last, they show—

Decrease in the Circulation of Irish Banks £ 69,367
Decrease in the Circulation of Scotch Banks 10,265

Total decrease on the month £79,632

And as compared with the month ending April 16th, 1853, they show—

Increase in the Circulation of Irish Banks £1,125,779
Increase in the Circulation of Scotch Banks 341,476

Total increase on the year 1,467,255

The fixed issues of the Irish and Scotch Banks at the present time are given in the *Banking Almanac*, as follows :—

8 Banks in Ireland, allowed to issue... £6,354,494
18 Banks in Scotland, allowed to issue .. 3,087,309

26 Banks in all, allowed to issue..... £9,441,703

The following appears, therefore, to be the comparative state of the circulation :—

Irish Banks are above their fixed issue .. £286,917
Scotch Banks are above their fixed issue 746,889

Total above the fixed issue £1,033,806

The amounts of Gold and Silver held at the head offices of the several banks, during the past month, have been as follows :—

Gold and Silver held by the Irish Banks £2,073,115
Gold and Silver held by the Scotch Banks 1,448,230

Total of Gold and Silver Coin £3,521,345

Being a decrease of £82,627 on the part of the Irish Banks, and a decrease of £16,292 on the part of the Scotch Banks, on the several amounts held by them during the preceding month.

CIRCULATION OF THE UNITED KINGDOM TO APRIL 15, 1854.

The following is the state of the Note Circulation of the United Kingdom, for the month ending the 15th April, 1854.

Circulation of Notes for the Month ending April 15th, as compared with the previous month :

	Mar. 18.	April 15.	Increase.	Decrease.
Bank of England	£21,263,930	£21,556,553	£292,623	—
Private Banks	3,811,691	3,904,449	92,758	—
Joint Stock Banks	3,076,385	3,153,154	76,769	—
Total in England	28,151,996	29,014,156	862,162	—
Scotland	3,844,363	3,834,098	—	£10,265
Ireland	6,710,778	6,641,411	—	69,367
United Kingdom	38,707,137	39,489,667	862,162	79,632

The comparison of the month ending April 16th, 1853, with the month ending April 15th, 1854, shows a *decrease* in the Bank of England circulation of £736,131, an *increase* in Private Banks of £41,915, and an *increase* in Joint Stock Banks of £21,074; being a total *decrease* in England of £673,142; while in Scotland there is an *increase* of £341,476; and in Ireland an *increase* of £1,125,779. Thus showing that the month ending 15th April, as compared with the same period last year, presents a *decrease* of £673,142 in *England*, and an *increase* of £794,113 in the *United Kingdom*.

The return of Bullion in the Bank of England, for the month ending April 15th, gives an aggregate amount in both departments of £14,182,618. On a comparison of this with the Return for the month ending March 18th, there appears to be a *decrease* of £1,421,030; and a *decrease* of £4,554,826 as compared with the same period last year.

The stock of specie held by the Banks in Scotland and Ireland during the month ending 15th April, was £3,521,345; being a *decrease* of £98,919 as compared with the return of the previous month, and an *increase* of £901,080 as compared with the corresponding period last year.

THE BANKERS' MAGAZINE,

AND

Journal of the Money Market.

JULY, 1854.

THE BANK OF ENGLAND AND THE GOVERNMENT.*

THERE seems a studied attempt, at the present moment, to investigate the merits of the Bank Charter. This is not unreasonable, considering that the period is approaching when the question of its renewal or modification will have to be brought before Parliament. The topic, however, has been more prominently forced into notice, in consequence of an opinion expressed that the Government would be enabled to regulate its financial affairs with greater facility, were the existing regulations dispensed with, and the establishment placed under the immediate control of the State.

The suggestion of such an alteration has naturally aroused the attention of the public, especially those interested in the monetary relations of the country; and, although there is no certain indication that this change is in reality contemplated, the allusions made to the question in the House of Lords show that peculiar interest attaches thereto. It is not the first, and probably will not be the last, occasion on which the propriety of a transfer of the powers delegated to the court of directors to a Government board has been canvassed, and on grounds quite as ostensible as those now put forward. In adverting, however, to so important a subject, the mere abstract position must not be

* While giving publicity to the opinions contained in this paper, we must not be held responsible for the whole of the views enunciated.
[Ed. B. M.]

separated from a variety of other considerations which become involved, and which, in themselves, form a main ingredient in the discussion.

It appears to be presumed that the difficulties encountered by Mr. Gladstone in his late financial operations arose, in a measure, from the adverse action of the Bank; and that the subsequent diminution of the Exchequer balances, which placed him in an unsatisfactory position, might have been obviated had a less restrictive policy been exhibited. The absence of harmony between the executive of the Treasury and the executive of Threadneedle Street, under these circumstances, has, it is alleged, demonstrated the impracticability of the State being adequately represented by the Bank in future emergencies of a similar character.

Dismissing the numerous rumours propagated with regard to the supposed recommendation—those which attribute it to the offended dignity of the Chancellor, and others as an emanation from Government authorities who absolutely believe in the convenience of the change,*—it is desirable to look at the question as it presents itself, not alone in connection with the severance of the ties hitherto existing between the Treasury and the directors, but also in connection with the general banking community.

The Bank Charter of 1844, while it possesses strenuous supporters, has also a host of opponents; and no sooner does the least hitch occur in its operations, than denunciations, loud and deep, are heard against its efficiency. That it has not worked perfectly well in all respects, there is abundance of testimony; but as an experiment, based on the theory it was proposed should be reduced to practice, the provisions of the act have answered better than many were inclined to anticipate. The regulations associated with the circulation of the country banks were probably more stringent than experience has proved to be politic; but, considering the periods through which we have passed, there is not even the universal condemnation of their effect which several writers would induce us to believe. The monopoly of the issue of notes, of which complaint is so frequently made, would not be remedied were the Government to step in and adopt the functions of the corporation, reducing the establishment to what it then would simply be—a joint-stock bank upon an enormous scale. On the contrary, it is evident from the

* Whenever allusion has been made in the House of Commons to the relations between the Bank of England and himself, the Chancellor of the Exchequer has invariably described them as of the most friendly description.

fragmentary observations now and then made in the Legislature, that if the present Cabinet continue to occupy office, any endeavours "to tamper with the currency" will be restricted; and while this must not be construed to imply that every modification will be rejected, it at the same moment indicates that the principle of the act is, if possible, to be maintained.

The institution of a Government bank, to exercise the privileges enjoyed under the existing Charter, to manage the public debt and regulate general finances, would therefore, if carried out on the basis already legalised, fail to place the subsidiary measures governing the currency in a better situation than they now stand; and notwithstanding it would bring within the grasp of the State the power of dealing with the money market in the manner most calculated to suit the interests of the minister of the day, no advantage would accrue to those whose interests are supposed to be prejudiced by the present status of the Bank. Indeed, it is questionable if any positive alteration took place, whether the introduction of a State paper currency might not militate against the facilities permitted to country banks, limited though they are said to be. The disadvantage would not be so great to the public as it would probably prove in other quarters, when the test came to be applied.

It may be said, "they order these things better in France," where the national establishment is completely under the command of the Government; but the management of its financial affairs has not been considered judicious, particularly when compulsory action has been taken to accommodate it to public convenience. Neither can the species of success which has followed the development of Austrian finance, according to the theory of forced intervention, be supposed to illustrate in a favourable shape the concession of unlimited control, without some accompanying check. In the case of our own Government, it may, however, be remarked, there is reason to expect that if the management of a State Bank were assumed by them, objectionable proceedings of this kind would not be attempted; but while admitting that the policy pursued might be of a character to maintain the credit of the country, it would be impossible to persuade the public that the power enjoyed was not occasionally brought to influence party purposes.

The Bank of England as it now stands—the representative in one sense of the Government, and in the other of the trade of the country—is in a position to obtain a renewal of its Charter. That some modification or revision of the terms on which it may be granted will take place, many feel inclined to believe, but few seem disposed to admit the necessity of a State Bank, or enter-

tain the opinion that one can be seriously contemplated. The principal modifications which, it is stated, are essential, include the allowance of discretionary powers available under Government sanction, whenever the exigencies of the period may require their introduction, and an enlargement of the circulation, to meet the demands produced by extended mercantile operations; and with these amendments the charter would effectually perform its important functions.

Even the opponents of the system as propounded by the Act of 1844, if these alterations were effected, would be more reconciled to its operation, and the arrangement of a compromise might in the end satisfy the whole banking community, and tend to remove those petty jealousies fostered at the expense of all interested in the question. It is scarcely possible to believe that any other spirit than that dictated by a desire to secure the financial and commercial interests of the country, can influence the Government or the Bank directors in advising and effecting ameliorating changes, the support and steady development of our industrial resources, depending upon the efficiency of currency regulations.

Opinion, fluctuating as it has been on the success of the Charter Act, both in the monetary pressure of 1847-48, and that which has recently been experienced, does not, however, so widely disagree with its general provisions as to call for its entire abrogation; and the credit which attaches to the ordinary management of the institution in other respects shows that the governing body have discharged their duties to the satisfaction of the proprietors and the public. The case would be wholly different had the directors misconceived their vocation, and, by a departure from the principles of late legislation, unnecessarily stimulated or depressed trade. Not only, however, does every charge of this kind fail against them, for it is admitted that their vigilance has been unbounded; but they have, in pursuing a straight line of conduct, hazarded the displeasure of those whom they might have considered it most desirable to propitiate.

The discussion in its general bearing will, however, not be unattended with benefit, if only in its initiatory stage; but the importance of the question will be increased before the final decision is arrived at, as the phases of commerce affected by our currency laws will have been brought fully under review, and investigated.

THE REPORT ON THE LAW OF PARTNERSHIP.

THE Commissioners appointed to enquire into and ascertain how far the mercantile laws in the different parts of the United Kingdom may be advantageously assimilated, and also whether any and what alterations and amendment should be made in the law of partnership as regards the limited or unlimited responsibility of partners, have just made their report to Parliament. Upon the latter portion of the inquiry, the mercantile community felt the deepest interest. It was understood how much the report of so distinguished a body might influence the decision of the legislature, and how intimately such a decision must affect the whole trade and commerce of these islands. Public opinion is to a great extent divided upon the point, the evidence received by the Commissioners is most conflicting, and it is no secret that even the members of the present Government hold upon the question totally different opinions, the President of the Board of Trade is against limited liability, the Secretary to the Board of Control has repeatedly announced himself one of its warmest supporters. It is a question, in fact, not to be viewed abstractedly, but in relation to circumstances; the theory, when its application is judiciously restricted, is admitted upon all hands to be sound and useful; its operation as a free element of trade is questioned by the highest authorities.

There is scarcely any public topic upon which greater diversity of opinion is entertained by men eminently capable, from knowledge of the affairs of commerce, and great ability, to arrive at a sound and just result. The Commissioners, after some prefatory remarks, observe upon this: they say that "gentlemen of great experience and talent have arrived at conclusions diametrically opposite, and in supporting those conclusions have displayed reasoning powers of the highest order." The scales, it would seem, are pretty equally poised, so that the Commissioners declare "it is difficult to say on which side the weight of authority preponderates." Limited liability derives large support from foreign authorities. The Commissioners publish communications on the subject from foreign chambers of commerce and foreign merchants. Those in the French language are given in the original, but to those in the German and Dutch, translations are appended. It is right to observe, however, that many of those foreign merchants confine their approbation to the working of that principle in their own respective countries. A blue book of 310 pages of information, gathered from the four corners of the globe, indicates the laborious nature of the task; but the opinion of the Commissioners, like the postscript of a lady's letter, is given in a few significant words. The question they had to consider, they say, was "whether the proposed alteration of the law would act beneficially on the general trading interests of the country," and they have arrived at the conclusion that it would not. They declare they have not been able to discover the evidence of the want of a sufficient amount of capital for the requirements of trade, and the annually increasing wealth of the country, and the difficulty of finding profitable investments for it, seems to them

sufficient guarantees that an adequate amount will always be devoted to any mercantile enterprise that holds out any reasonable prospect of gain, without any forced action upon capital to determine it in that direction, while any such forced action would have a great tendency to induce men to embark in speculative adventures to an extent that would be dangerous to the interests of the general commerce of the country. Lord Overstone and Mr. W. G. Prescott are of opinion that no change or modification in the present law of partnership ought to take place. Lord Overstone says that experience has convinced him that the present principle of our law of partnership, by which the hope of unlimited profit is necessarily associated with, and connected by the sense of unlimited responsibility, is both just and wise. As the opinions of Lord Overstone must have great weight with the mercantile body, we will give a brief condensation of them. His lordship is adverse to the principle of limited liability because its application would tend to relax responsibility, to lessen caution, to diminish that anxious vigilance with which great business concerns are conducted, and impair those efforts by which difficulties are encountered and overcome. Lord Overstone's judgment is that the security of trade depends rather upon prudence and discrimination than upon the positive amount of capital—that the best security for vigilance is the sense of unlimited responsibility by all the partners, and he ends by saying, "diminished responsibility, in whatever form, must, I fear, lead to a relaxation of all those virtues which are most essential to the safety or prosperity of trade." Lord Overstone and Mr. W. G. Prescott are both of opinion that it would be difficult, if not impossible, in a trading community full of enterprise and competition, and in which the transactions are numerous, complicated and extensive, to frame a system of limited liability, which would not have the effect of opening the door widely to ambiguity, litigation and fraud. They are against it, because they think it would tend to trading of a wild and reckless description, because an extension of the system of sleeping partnership would not conduce to the steadiness and safety of trade—because it would compel creditors, contrary to their wish and to true policy, to have a share in the liabilities of the concern—because, though it would not limit the tendency to insolvency, it would have the effect of throwing a portion of the penal consequences on parties perfectly innocent, to the relief of those actually blameable for the mismanagement of the concern—because evil rather than good is to be apprehended from any legislation which shall tend to hope of gain, as compared with the apprehension of loss—because there is less security for creditors—because undue speculation would be thereby promoted—because it is inadvisable to sanction any alteration of the law which shall have the effect of attracting persons in humble life, not likely to be aware of, or to consider the risks of trade and speculation, to embark their little means in trading concerns, each investing a small amount only. The first requisite of trading concerns being that they should be conducted only by those competent to understand and correctly estimate the risks of trade, they are of opinion that if the principle of limited liability be

conceded at all, it should be dependent, not upon the number of partners, but upon the amount of capital contributed at the commencement ; that limited liability in the case of large joint-stock associations might have the effect of generating too much confidence in the concern on the part of the public, and too much boldness in their operations on the part of its managers. They argue that all attempts to substitute legal provisions in the place of individual prudence have proved failures, and that credit will be more readily and properly given to concerns conducted with adequate capital and prudence, than to concerns deficient in those qualities. One of the arguments urged against the present law of unlimited liability, was that it deterred prudent persons of property from becoming shareholders in banks or other public companies. To this, Lord Overstone and Mr. Prescott jointly reply that this is a proof of the value of the principle, and they are of opinion that unlimited liability ought to be the established principle of our commercial legislation, and that any suspension of that principle should only be permitted under the special authority of the Board of Trade, or of an Act of Parliament. In cases of Assurance Societies, they think that the greatest possible protection to parties assuring should be provided, and therefore, in conformity with the views they hold, the principle of limited liability ought not to apply. Another observation they make is, that the present distribution of capital is natural, legitimate, and beneficial ; that limited liability cannot create any new capital, and that if it should bring more capital into trade, it must have the effect of abstracting it from some other occupation, where it is probably employed with equal advantage to the community.

The nineteenth question of the commission, or rather the substance of it, is whether limited partners should be prohibited from taking any part in the business of the firm, or in advising, &c.—What ought to be the extent of the prohibition in this respect, and how ought it to be regulated and secured ? To this question, upon which after all some of the chief difficulties in working out the principle of limited liability attaches, these two distinguished authorities reply—that it would be difficult to justify any restriction upon the power of limited partners in the management of the concern ; that the limited partners will be the partners of real responsibility, whilst the gerant will be a man of little or no responsibility. They ask how it can be expected that those really responsible will not advise respecting the management of the concern, and how can a distinction be drawn between advice and management, since the one may lead to the other ? They suggest that there can be neither prudence nor safety in a concern, the management of which may be exclusively in the hands of parties possibly of no responsibility, whilst the interference of those whose prudence is the best guarantee, is excluded. They suppose a case where a partnership of this kind is established upon a certain understanding, which understanding after some time the gerant violates, and they ask, what degree of interference is permissible to the limited partners, how far can they interfere without forfeiting their privilege, and is the stock-taking to

be left exclusively to the gerant? Again, they urge that the gerant and limited partners may continue for the purpose of dividing excessive profits under the cover of unfair valuations of stock and debts, and thus the just security of the creditors may be fraudulently diminished. For these and other reasons, Lord Overstone and Mr. Prescott are of opinion that a law of limited liability must open the door to doubt, litigation and fraud. But supposing such partnerships to be established by law, they are of opinion that the most complete publicity should be secured with respect to the nature of such partnerships; for the only ground on which limited liability can be justified is, that the creditors are fully informed of the character of the concern, that they act with their eyes open, and that they are sufficiently informed of the peculiar nature of the contract. They believe that limited liability is applicable rather in a thinly peopled country, deficient in capital and enterprise, than in a country like this where there are abundance of both. That the proper places of deposit for the savings of the humble and middle classes are banks and Government securities, and that the relaxation of the usury laws satisfies all objects which can legitimately arise from the proposed limitation of liability. Such are the main objections of Lord Overstone and Mr. Prescott to limited liability, which we have given at much length, because they comprehend all there can be said upon that side of the question, and had no doubt great influence upon the ultimate decision of the commissioners. We now propose to give a brief summary of the opinions of the leading authorities, which the commissioners publish. Mr. James Anderson, late manager of the Union Bank of Scotland, is of opinion that, as regards private partnerships, the general law of unlimited liability should not be changed. Mr. George Armitage, selected by the Chamber of Commerce at Huddersfield, was of opinion there ought to be no limitation to liability as to private partnerships. Mr. H. Ashworth, selected by the Chamber of Commerce at Manchester, is of opinion that the present unlimited responsibility of private partnerships ought in no degree to be changed. Mr. Charles Babbage, late Lucasian professor at Cambridge, is favourable to alteration promoting limitation of liability. Mr. J. H. Barber, manager of the Sheffield Banking Company, delivered this as his opinion—that joint-stock banks have been advancing and private banks receding, chiefly owing to the feeling of confidence on the part of depositors and public, arising from the unlimited responsibility of shareholders, and with which feeling limitation of liability would do away. Mr. David Baxter, merchant, selected by the Chamber of Commerce, Dundee, thought as regards private partnerships, the principle of limited liability in associations for mercantile purpose ought not to be admitted. The Chamber of Commerce in Belfast, is of opinion that the American special partnerships were preferable to those on the *commandité* principle in France and elsewhere. Mr. James Bristow, director of the Northern Banking Company, Belfast, was unfavourable to any limitation to the liability of partners. Mr. John Brooke, selected by the Chamber of Commerce, Huddersfield, was of opinion, that if there were more than six partners

in a joint-stock association, a capital of at least £30,000 ought to be paid into the Bank of England, and not withdrawn until registration was certified, that there should be a provision for surplus fund out of profits, that shares should be transferable with registration, that there should not be compulsory dissolution on loss, and that there should be registration of names, but not of accounts. Mr. William Brown, M. P., of the firm of Brown, Shipley and Co., Liverpool, who was selected by the Chamber of Commerce, Liverpool, and whose name is well known in connection with this subject, thus records his opinions: "A change from the present system of unlimited liability would be injurious where private capital is equal to the undertaking: cases of extreme risk in mining, &c., and extensive railroads, where individual capital is not sufficient, should be exceptions; limited liability should be obtained from Parliament only." Mr. William Cotton, a director of the Bank of England, thinks as regards private partnerships there should not be any material alteration in the law as to the liability of partners, and that in undertakings of public importance, limitation of liability should be provided for by act or charter. Mr. W. Cross, late manager of the Liverpool Borough Bank, and now a partner in the firm of A. Dennistoun and Co., Liverpool, says, that liability of all or of any of the partners may be limited in any business without special authorisation; that there should be perfect publicity of names and of subscribed capital; that there should be no compulsory dissolution on loss, and no compulsory publicity of accounts. The Council of the Chamber of Commerce, Dublin, state respecting private partnerships, that liability may be limited where there are not more than ten partners and each silent partner bringing in not more than £1,000 in private trade or manufacture only, not banks, insurance or other undertakings of a public or joint-stock character; that there ought to be registration of limited partnerships, and publication of firms, partners, business, contributions of limited partners and the term of partnership; that the shares ought not to be transferable; that the capital lost ought to be replaced out of the profits or by new investment; that there ought to be no restriction of or interference by limited partners, except in purchasing or selling, receiving or giving payments, or writing the name of the firm; and that as regards such partnerships there ought not to be compulsory publicity of accounts. They are of opinion as regards joint-stock associations the Board of Trade might grant limited liability according to the merits of each case. Mr. Entwistle, banker, selected by the Manchester Commercial Association, is of opinion, as regards private partnerships, that there should be unlimited liability; as to trading associations, with special exemptions, by charter or act; as regards joint-stock associations, he is of opinion there ought to be a general enactment to give the right of association for water-works and other local works, lodging-houses, reading-rooms and the like, to be defined with reference to the proportion by which fixed capital exceeds floating capital. Mr. James Freshfield, solicitor to the Bank of England, thinks there ought to be no limitation of liability of partners, and that *commandite* partnerships are objectionable.

The Chamber of Commerce at Glasgow are adverse to limitation of responsibility, except in special cases of national importance; and as regards private partnerships, Mr. S. Gurney, of the firm of Overend, Gurney and Co., is of the same opinion; but as regards joint-stock associations, thinks limitation of liability expedient where the object is one for which a private firm would be incompetent. He makes an exception as regards banking. Mr. Commissioner Holroyd gave his opinion as regards private partnerships of a limited number of partners, in the first instance limited responsibility should be made applicable, but not for banking or insurance; that there should be registration of names and descriptions of partners, capital, term and change of partners; that there should exist unlimited liability for partners not paying up capital as agreed on, or withdrawing it during the term, and that the profits of the previous six years should be liable to be refunded. Mr. Robert Lowe, M. P., is of opinion that, both as regards private partnerships and joint-stock associations, there may be limited liability in any business without special authorisation either by the Board of Trade or by Act of Parliament. He would have a government audit of accounts, no compulsory dissolution on loss and compulsory registration of the terms of partnership.

The Commissioners admit that instances may occur where men of probity and talent would derive benefit from such a system as that of limited liability, but they are of opinion that such benefit has been greatly overrated, and that the advantages acquired by the managing or limited partners will be at the expense of a more than countervailing amount of injury to traders bearing the burden of unlimited liability, who will have to enter into competition with those who enjoy the protection to be given by the proposed law. But though the commissioners deem it inexpedient to alter the law, they observe that many useful enterprises, calculated to produce benefit to the public and profit to those who engage in them, are of such magnitude that no private partnership can be expected to provide funds necessary to carry them into effect, such as docks and railways, and those of a more limited character, such as baths and wash-houses, &c. They are of opinion that, with respect to these, the principle of limited liability ought to be applied, subject to inquiry into the nature, extent, and means of carrying out the scheme. Such undertakings as involve an interference with the rights of property, an Act of Parliament to continue indispensable; but as to the others—lodging-houses, reading-rooms, baths, and the like—the commissioners would grant limited liability by charter; and, for the purpose of regulating the granting of such charters, they recommend the establishment of a board, and fixed rules. As regards the usury laws, the commissioners are of opinion that, so far as they affect personal securities, it would be expedient to repeal them altogether, but with respect to real securities they offer no opinion. They conclude their report with these words:—"Your Majesty's commissioners feel, that although the details of our mercantile laws may require correction, yet while there is on every side such abundant evidence of satisfactory progress

and national prosperity, it would be unwise to interfere with principles which, in their judgment, have proved beneficial to the general industry of the country." The names of the commissioners are—Thomas Berry Cusack Smith, now Master of the Rolls in Ireland, and Attorney-General for that country under the late Sir R. Peel's government; Mr. Justice Cresswell; Lord Curriehill, one of the Senators of the College of Justice in Scotland; Mr. Bramwell, Q.C.; Mr. Anderson, Q.C.; Messrs. K. D. Hodgson, Thomas Bazley, and Robert Slater.

Lord Curriehill and Messrs. Bramwell, Anderson, Hodgson, and Slater have appended separate opinions to the report, in which the subject is, as might have been expected, discussed with great ability: that of Lord Curriehill is decidedly adverse to the proposed change in the law of partnership; that of Mr. Bramwell decidedly favourable; that of Mr. Anderson is upon the whole adverse, though he would recommend some changes in the present law; whilst Mr. Hodgson is of opinion that a change in the present law might be made with safety and advantage, by allowing the existence of limited partnerships under certain regulations, which need be neither very complex nor very numerous; Mr. Slater's opinion, though in favour of certain modifications, leans the other way. On a future occasion we may allude further to this report.

THE ISSUE OF EXCHEQUER BONDS.

MR. GLADSTONE is losing no time in bringing his Exchequer bonds into circulation, and it appears he is determined to test the taste of the public with regard to these new securities. The second issue of £2,000,000 was arranged on the 20th of June between the Government and Messrs. Rothschild and other capitalists. They are to be for a term of five years, and will be taken at a price calculated to pay exactly 4 per cent. This will be about 97 15-16. As the interest upon them will run from the 8th of May last, they will, however, actually yield about £4 2s. 2d. per cent. The instalments are to be of 25 per cent., at the four following periods—the 23rd of June, the 5th of July, the 22d of August, and the 10th of October; and it is stipulated that the remaining £2,000,000 proposed to be issued by the Government shall not be offered for a period of at least ten weeks. The first issue of £2,000,000 on the 3d of May last was in bonds for five years at 98 $\frac{3}{4}$, at which they yield an annual interest of 4 per cent.. The £2,000,000 remaining to be issued will be in bonds having six years to run.

With regard to the Act of Parliament under which they are issued, the annexed abstract will prove interesting:—

In the Act of Parliament which has just received the Royal assent, the regulations made as to the issue of Exchequer bonds are as follows:—For £2,000,000 the Treasury, in the first instance, may issue Exchequer bonds

bearing interest from the 8th of Mar last, at £3 10s. per centum per annum, to be paid off at par on the 8th of May, 1858, to any person who may have subscribed for such bonds at a price not less than £108 15s. per centum, to be paid at the rate of £100 1s., if in money or in Exchequer bills at par for every £100 so subscribed, and all such Exchequer bills so subscribed shall be delivered up to be cancelled. Such parties, their executors, &c., as have subscribed for any such Exchequer bonds, and shall have made a deposit of £10 per centum on the 8th, 9th or 10th of May, 1854, and shall pay the further instalments in completion of the price at the following times, viz.:—“£30 per centum on the 9th of June next, £20 per centum on the 11th of July next, £20 per centum on the 8th of September next, and the remaining £20 on the 17th of October next,” shall, on completing such subscription, be entitled to the bonds for which they have severally subscribed, and interest at the rate of £3 10s. per centum from the day of payment up to the respective days on which the instalments fall due shall be paid to such parties as shall pay the instalments at an earlier period; and, unless such parties so subscribing shall pay the whole of such instalments, the deposit and instalments actually paid shall be forfeited, and no bonds shall be issued on account of such subscription.

NEW FOREIGN LOANS.

WHILE the Chancellor of the Exchequer is engaged in putting into circulation, his £4,000,000 of Exchequer bonds, the governments of Russia and Prussia are also employed in completing financial operations, but by the old common routine of loans. Belgium has also appeared in the market as a borrower, but her requirements are far from extensive. The Czar, well knowing the unpopularity he has brought upon himself through his aggressive movement against Turkey, has not attempted to seek accommodation in England, but has prudently enough resorted to Holland, where the loan has been brought out under the auspices of Messrs. Hope of Amsterdam, and Messrs. Steiglitz of St. Petersburg. The amount is 50,000,000 silver roubles, or £7,000,000 to £7,500,000 sterling, and the subscription price is fixed at 93 per cent. in a 5 per cent. stock, to be paid up in full on or before the 30th of July, without deduction for interest. The sinking fund is to be $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. per annum, and the bonds are to be drawn by lot for redemption if the market price be above par. The interest, it is proposed, shall be paid in April and October in St. Petersburg and Amsterdam, at an exchange of 37d. per silver rouble. The whole sum has been readily taken, but it remains to be seen whether the Emperor will be able punctually to discharge the dividends. Those upon the 5 per cents. and the $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cents. negotiable on the London Stock Exchange, have hitherto been regularly paid, though no doubt at a great sacrifice, owing to the deranged position of Russian finances. The Prussian loan is for £2,250,000 in a $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. stock at 94, less 1 per cent. commission, and the amount has been quickly

subscribed. A Belgian loan for £1,100,000 has been arranged between the National Bank of Belgium, and Messrs. Rothschild at Paris, in a $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. stock, at about 91. These demands upon the resources of foreign money markets will tend to absorb a considerable portion of floating capital, and probably increase the rates of interest, which have hitherto ruled low both in Amsterdam, Berlin and Hamburg.

THE SOUTH SEA COMPANY.

THE Committee of the House of Lords appointed to take evidence on the bill introduced to Parliament, by the South Sea Company, for winding up the affairs of the old corporation, and carrying out, under the authority of the charter, the administration of trusts, have made their report, and have expunged the clauses relating to the latter object. This leaves the bill in the position of one solely for the purpose of realising and distributing existing assets; and if it be eventually carried in this form, it will meet the views of a great number of the proprietors.

Although a majority gave their sanction to the bill including the Trust clauses, it was only on the understanding that those clauses would not be allowed to interfere with the power to dissolve if they were rejected. The evidence taken before the committee was not of a voluminous nature, but it was sufficient to induce their Lordships to take a course adverse to the wishes of the South Sea directors. The opponents of the measure may thus far congratulate themselves upon the result of their exertions, which have twice defeated in its preliminary stages the darling project of the sub-governor and his colleagues.

There however now seems some difficulty as to the progress of future proceedings; and the proprietors—at least those who are interested in an early distribution of the funds—should exercise vigilance, and take care that the Court do not suffer the bill to drop. In that case they will be in a similar position to what they were last year, when the previous application failed, viz:—without power to divide the assets, or take the other necessary measures to wind up.

It is stated, we believe, that the course the Lords' committee have pursued will not prevent the bill being brought forward in its full integrity in the House of Commons, and that it may, after all, be carried. If this be really the case, there is yet hope that same arrangement may be effected. The bill, if it pass, will, with the double provision of the Trust clauses, and the power to pay off dissentients, enable those who desire to withdraw to do so without further connection with the company.

The position in which they stand is just this :—Although objecting to the proposal for establishing a Trust Company, believing that if it can never be practically carried out, they are not desirous of preventing the court from endeavouring to obtain the powers to try the experiment ; but they urge that the failure of those clauses ought not to prevent the bill, with its more prominent object of winding up the affairs of the old corporation, from receiving the sanction of the Legislature. It was distinctly on this footing that many proprietors gave in their adhesion to the views of the court ; and it will ill requite their confidence if they shall ultimately discover that the rejection of the Trust clauses is to be made a fresh pretext for further delaying the final distribution of the assets. Surely when the measure comes before Parliament, some member may be induced to represent the case of the dissentients, and explain the anomalous position in which they are now placed

GUARANTEED WEST INDIA LOANS.

A TREASURY notice was issued on the 6th of June, of guaranteed loans for Demerara and Trinidad to the amount respectively of £50,000 and £25,000, under the act of 1848, which authorized such loans on behalf of the West India colonies and Mauritius, and of which Demerara resolved to avail herself to the extent of £250,000 and Trinidad £125,000 ; of these sums the former has already had £200,000, and the latter £100,000, and the remaining proportions have therefore completed the proposed totals. The debentures are to be for £500 each, bearing interest at four per cent from the 1st of next July, and will be redeemable at the expiration of 20 years from that date.

On Monday, the 19th, the tenders were opened at the Treasury in the presence of the Chancellor of the Exchequer, the Governor and Deputy-Governor of the Bank of England, and of the parties tendering. A sealed paper, with the lowest price fixed by Government, having been placed in the care of the Governor of the Bank, Sir C. Trevelyan proceeded to announce the particulars of the tenders (five for British Guiana, and Three for Trinidad), which, arranging them in order of prices, were as follows :—

- “FOUR PER CENT. LOAN FOR BRITISH GUIANA, £50,000.
- “Governor and Company of the Bank of England, £50,000, at par.
- “Edward Ellis and Co., £5000, at par.
- “R. and R. Butler, £10,000, at £97.
- “Russell Ellice, £6,500 (either loan), at £97.
- “Atlas Assurance Company, £10,000 at £95 2s. 6d.
- “FOUR PER CENT. LOAN FOR TRINIDAD, £25,000.
- “Governor and Company of the Bank of England, £25,000, at par.
- “Russell Ellice, £6,500 (either loan), at £97.
- “Atlas Assurance Company, £10,000, at £95 2s. 6d.

The Governor of the Bank asked the circumstances under which the sealed paper should be opened, but Sir Charles Trevelyan replied that he did not think it would be necessary to open it. The Chancellor of the Exchequer would name the tenders he accepted if any of them reached or exceeded his price, and the opening of the paper, as mentioned on a previous occasion, would only be requisite if they were rejected.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer, having been informed that the two highest tenders were from the Bank of England and Messrs. E. Ellis and Co., stated that the Government accepted the tender of the Bank for £70,000, and that of Messrs. Ellis and Co. for £5,000.

Subjoined are the terms on which the loans for these two colonies have been taken :—

		DEMERARA.		Price of Consols at the time.	
January 23, 1851	..	..	£65,000 at 105	}	.. 96½
			5,000 at 106		
March 5, 1852..	..	..	50,000 at 109½	}	12s. 9d. 97½
February 3, 1853	..	..	53,000 at 109½		
			27,000 at 109½	}	.. 99½
June 19, 1854..	..	..	50,000 at par		
TRINIDAD.					
March 5, 1852..	..	..	£40,000 at 109½	}	3s. .. 97½
February 3, 1853	..	..	40,000 at 109½		
			20,000 at 109½	}	.. 99½
June 19, 1854..	..	..	25,000 at par		

THE AUSTRALIAN BANKING INTEREST.

At the present juncture, when the progress of banking in Australia is watched with so much interest, the annexed statistics, prepared from the more detailed statements furnished by the local journals received through the last mail, exhibit important facts. The whole of the establishments, it may be remarked, are in a healthy position, and little doubt is entertained of the soundness of the business they are transacting. There had been a large increase in the note circulation, and the deposits had very remarkably increased, the aggregate of all the banks being, in each quarter of the year—

1852—December	..	..	..	..	..	£2,596,400
1853—March	..	..	..	..	..	3,338,700
June	..	..	..	..	..	3,998,000
September	..	..	..	..	..	4,611,900
December	..	..	..	..	..	5,065,700

During the last three months of 1853 they increased by £453,800, or nearly 10 per cent.; during the last six months of the past year by £1,067,700, or 26 per cent.; during the last nine months by £1,727,000, or upwards of 50 per cent.; and during the last twelve months by £2,469,300, or nearly 100 per cent.

The amount of deposits held by the Sydney banks severally on the 31st of December last was as follows:—

	Sept.	Dec.
New South Wales	£1,866,500	£2,072,100
Commercial	898,600	926,000
Australasia	806,900	844,000
Union	847,100	943,000
Joint-Stock	163,500	215,400
London Chartered	27,300	51,600
English and Scottish Chartered	—	13,300
Totals	£4,614,900	£5,065,700

The aggregate amounts of coin and bullion held by all the banks, including those held by the Victoria branch of the Bank of New South Wales, were as follows:—

1852—December	£1,428,900
1853—March	1,895,700
June	2,627,600
September	3,395,100
December	3,060,000

During the last three months of 1853, the amount of coin and bullion fell off by £335,000, or nearly 10 per cent. In the last six months of that year it had increased by £432,400, or 17 per cent.; in the last nine months by £1,164,300, or 60 per cent.; and in the last twelve months by £1,631,100, or 114 per cent.

The amounts of coin and bullion held by the banks respectively were as follows:—

	Sept.	Dec.
New South Wales	£1,435,000	£1,028,660
Commercial	562,400	507,700
Australasia	711,800	732,500
Union	512,600	524,000
Joint-Stock	91,100	146,700
London Chartered	82,200	87,500
English and Scottish Chartered	—	33,000
Total	£3,395,100	£3,060,000

The bills under discount in all the banks, including those held by the Victoria branch of the Bank of New South Wales were in amount as follows:—

1852—December	£1,581,300
1853—March	1,967,200
June	2,019,900
September	2,556,800
December	3,138,200

The increase in the last quarter of 1853 is here shown to have been £581,400; in the last six months, £1,118,300; in the last nine months, 1,171,000; and in the last twelve months, £1,556,900. The

quarter's increase was at the rate of nearly 23 per cent.; the year's, nearly 100 per cent.

The amounts of bills under discount held by the banks severally were as under:—

	Sept.	Dec.
New South Wales	£929,800	£1,241,000
Commercial	471,400	544,700
Australasia	393,600	441,500
Union	563,900	570,400
Joint-Stock	179,000	217,500
London Chartered	19,100	72,600
English and Scottish Chartered.	—	50,500
Total	<u>£2,556,800</u>	<u>£3,138,200</u>

The total assets of the banks are given at £7,660,900, against £6,550,800 of liabilities; leaving £1,110,100 as the working capital, for the transaction of a business in discounts of more than £3,000,000.

The total liabilities in circulation and deposits were, on the 31st December, £6,213,300; against which there ought to be in hand coin and bullion to the amount of at least £2,071,000, while there was actually in hand £3,600,000.

We find that the total amount of deposits at the 31st December of the respective years was as under:—

		Increase on previous year.	Increase on 1852.
1850	£174,500	—	—
1851	221,300	46,800	46,800
1852	431,400	210,100	256,900
1853	602,300	170,900	427,800

Increase of deposits in the three years .. £427,800

The following table will exhibit the total liabilities, the total assets, and the capital and profits of seven banks, for the quarter ended December 31st, 1853:—

CAPITAL AND PROFITS.

BANKS.	Total Liabilities.			Total Assets.			Capital paid up.	Rate per Annum of last Dividend.	Amount of Dividend.	Reserved Profits after paying Dividend.
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	per cent.	£	£ s. d.
New South Wales	2,825,790	0	3	3,271,836	0	5	400,000	20	40,000	57,528 3 9
Commercial	1,144,178	6	1	1,379,539	6	5	200,000	20	20,000	14,000 0 0
Australasia	1,038,341	15	4	1,183,916	11	5	900,000	15	67,500	99,609 13 1
Union of Australia	1,163,259	13	9	1,113,514	9	7	820,000	40	164,000	215,073 6 5
Australian Joint Stock	293,420	10	0	475,134	7	5	125,000	—	—	—
London Chartered	68,949	8	9	178,976	2	10	375,000	—	—	—
English, Scottish, and Australian Chartered	16,869	0	6	106,019	17	0	250,000	—	—	—
Totals	6,550,808	14	8	7,660,936	15	1	3,070,000	...	291,500	386,211 5 3

TRADE OF THE UNITED KINGDOM.

THE Board of Trade tables for the month ending the 5th of May were issued on the 2nd of June, and exhibit less favourable results than on the two previous occasions, the declared value of our exportations presenting a falling off of £747,527 as compared with the corresponding month of last year. The month of May, 1853, however, was remarkable from its having shown the unprecedented increase of £2,309,995 over May, 1852, and a diminution on the present occasion was therefore to be expected. The articles chiefly affected have been those connected with the Manchester markets; but linen, woollen, and silk manufactures, likewise exhibit a decline. With regard to other items, the variations have been mostly of small amount. The subjoined table gives the exact increase or decrease in the shipments under each head:—

DECLARED VALUE OF EXPORTATIONS.

Month ending May 5.	1853.	1854.	Increase.	Decrease.
Alkali—viz., soda	£51,289	£54,210	£2,921	£—
Beer and ale	148,621	160,064	11,443	—
Butter	21,911	20,224	—	1,687
Candles	11,830	13,123	1,293	—
Cheese	10,770	5,629	—	5,141
Coals and culm	129,030	235,929	106,899	—
Cordage and cables	36,096	57,934	21,538	—
Cotton manufactures	2,207,829	1,830,988	—	376,841
Cotton yarn	693,796	478,958	—	214,838
Earthenware	123,711	119,761	—	3,950
Fish	4,608	11,529	6,921	—
Glass manufactures	47,463	57,978	10,515	—
Haberdashery and millinery	285,479	267,735	—	17,744
Hardware and cutlery	316,219	308,134	—	8,085
Leather... ..	151,732	123,496	—	28,236
Linen manufactures	382,148	301,280	—	80,868
Linen yarn	89,837	82,758	—	7,078
Machinery	143,741	161,611	17,870	—
Metals	1,482,691	1,501,355	18,664	—
Oil and seeds	48,237	16,336	—	31,901
Painters' colours, &c.	35,435	43,728	8,293	—
Salt	25,424	24,427	—	997
Silk manufactures... ..	116,009	82,089	—	33,920
Silk, thrown	15,655	13,771	—	1,884
Silk, twist, and yarn	22,221	9,770	—	12,451
Soap	33,616	21,842	—	11,774
Stationery	50,237	57,958	7,721	—
Sugar, refined	21,974	21,140	—	834
Wool, sheep or lambs'... ..	29,252	24,460	—	4,792
Woollen manufactures... ..	740,133	637,982	—	102,151
Woollen yarn	101,916	85,484	—	19,432
Total... ..	7,578,910	6,831,383		

The aggregate value of our exports during the first four months of the present year has been £28,192,714, against £27,970,633 in the like

period of 1853, showing an increase of £222,081, which has occurred in the following order:—

Month ending.	Increase.	Decrease.
February 5	—	£368,748
March 5	£344,784	—
April 5	993,572	—
May 5	—	747,527

As compared with the same period of 1852, there is an increase of £6,348,051.

With regard to important commodities, the amount of wheat again presents a considerable increase. Other articles of food and luxury have also been largely taken into consumption. The effect of the previous limitation in the quantities of tea purchased by the dealers, pending the reduction of the duty, is strikingly shown in the augmented total for the present month, while for the four months of the year the consumption has been 20,978,089lb., against 13,692,021lb. last year, and 18,587,805lb. in the corresponding period of 1852.

Subjoined are the quantities of provisions, &c. imported and taken for home consumption:—

Month ending May 5.	Imported.		Home Consumption.	
	1853.	1854.	1853.	1854.
Grain, wheat, quarters	343,277	476,111	343,401	476,111
Grain of other descriptions, qrs ..	226,261	212,421	226,261	212,421
Indian corn, quarters	174,128	163,490	174,128	163,490
Flour and meal, cwt.	535,939	523,706	535,939	523,706
Provisions—Bacon, pork, lard, cwt.	101,791	83,971	Free.	Free.
Butter and cheese, cwt.	65,290	70,374	52,675	69,217
Animals, No.	22,072	8,728	Free.	Free.
Eggs, No.	14,950,407	15,204,411	14,999,967	15,269,601
Cocoa, lb.	634,929	98,968	355,486	375,763
Coffee, British, lb.	1,754,523	1,650,133	2,399,809	2,610,101
Ditto, foreign, lb.	603,244	415,527	795,472	531,910
Total coffee	2,357,767	2,065,660	3,195,281	3,142,011
Sugar—				
West India, cwt.	177,439	178,590	168,161	191,745
Mauritius, cwt.	131,041	178,259	214,641	216,874
East India, cwt.	52,633	45,821	136,332	111,818
Foreign, cwt.	94,142	165,784	72,309	25,313
Total sugar	455,255	568,454	591,443	545,750
Tea, lb.	3,557,973	6,443,070	2,359,865	12,927,303
Rice, cwt.	47,259	58,766	65,232	89,235
Spirits, gallons	1,319,281	714,998	407,754	340,358
Wines, gallons	927,029	814,682	672,647	613,849
Opium, lb.	13,463	2,974	3,896	4,276
Tobacco, lb.	976,890	727,072	2,477,963	2,457,208
Currants, figs and raisins, cwt. ..	18,006	17,827	27,166	24,818
Spices, lb.	370,364	334,460	212,588	231,781
Ditto, cwt.	2,607	677	102	101

The following are the comparative imports and exports of raw

material, showing an increase in flax and hemp, owing to the stimulus given to shipments from the anticipation of a blockade :—

Month ending May 5.	Imported.		Exported.	
	1853.	1854.	1853.	1854.
Flax, cwt.	58,581	147,256	—	—
Hemp, cwt.	35,604	49,690	—	—
Raw silk, lb.	427,479	486,068	39,249	43,925
Cotton, cwt.	1,073,168	863,383	209,803	58,167
Wool, lb.	7,418,871	4,694,881	445,199	728,207
Tallow, cwt.	34,697	29,716	—	—

Of silk manufactures the totals stand thus :—

Month ending May 5.	Imported.		Home Consumption.	
	1853.	1854.	1853.	1854.
Silk manufactures of Europe, lb.	70,163	65,205	68,680	65,322
Ditto, of Indian pieces	28,022	12,601	16,418	4,307

The importations of other articles have not been comparatively large, except in the instance of glass manufactures and timber, which continue to show a remarkable augmentation.

THE GENERAL MANAGER.

A SKETCH of the duties and position of the bank inspector was presented in the *Bankers' Magazine* for December. It is now proposed to make some remarks on those of a higher functionary, the general manager, who should be considered—

- 1st. In relation to the bank's customers.
- 2nd. In relation to the board of directors.
- 3rd. In relation to the other officers of the bank.

Before, however, treating of these relations in detail, it will be necessary to make a few preliminary observations of a more general character. The situation of general manager implies, as was remarked in the case of the inspector, a connection with a bank with branches. The manager of a bank, on however large a scale, that has no branches, is simply the manager. It is requisite to observe this distinction, because the manager of a bank with branches has a class of duties and responsibilities imposed upon him, unknown to a bank without branches, and which demand special experience and ability of a high character.

The general manager is the principal single officer in a bank. His authority is not equal to that of the board of directors, but greater than that of any single director, or of any committee of directors appointed for a particular object.

Recurring to the relations in which it is proposed to consider him, the first may be dismissed in a few words. The relation he bears to the bank's customers is nearly the same in character as that of the branch manager, and the object in this case is not to discuss those points of the general manager's duties and position which are identical with or similar to those of other and lower officers, but those which are peculiar to his position. Whether a customer makes a business proposal to a general or to a branch manager, the proposal goes, so far as the customer is concerned, through the same process—that is, a reference to the board of directors. Proceeding to the second, viz., the relation of the general manager to the board of directors, he is discovered in one of his most onerous and difficult positions. He must, for instance, be regarded as the prime adviser of the directors upon the merits of the cases or proposals he lays before them, whether from the customers of the head office, or from those of the branches. If the board of directors is well constituted—that is, of men of business—no doubt they will exercise a properly deliberative judgment upon the business of the bank, but with an inevitable deference to the opinion and advice of the general manager; for his banking knowledge and experience must necessarily far exceed, in almost all cases, those of any of the directors, and his particular knowledge of the customers and business of the bank must be equally superior. His knowledge also of the branch managers, of their capacity for business, of the confidence to be placed in their opinions and reports, must enable him to advise upon their proposals with a weight and accuracy which the board will feel themselves bound to respect; accordingly, it may be stated as a certain feature in the management of a joint-stock bank, that the general manager, if a man of energy, and of banking experience adequate to the requirements of his office, will in a very few years stamp the impress of his mind and character unmistakeably upon the bank, in every particular of its direction and interests.

In this character of adviser to the board, one of his most difficult duties is the skilful management and arrangement of the proposals to be laid before the board,—to place all proposals before them in the clearest, simplest form, divested of unnecessary facts and verbiage; laying the cases before them in their essentials. Many proposals from customers and from branch managers made in a crude, imperfect, or redundant form, and which but for the modifying skill of the general manager would be rejected by the board of directors, will, when sifted by him, receive a consideration to which their original form would not have entitled them.

There is much more in the manner of making a business proposal than may at first sight appear.—A confused manner of stating the facts of a proposal, may set them in an unfavourable light, and lead to a rejection possibly undeserved, if the case had been submitted more skilfully. It is sometimes said of various kinds of reasoning, that if the premises are well stated, a child can draw the conclusion. This is a good deal the case with the proposals which a general manager has to lay before his board, and he will in many cases, without a word of

formal advice, lead the directors towards what he thinks a right conclusion, by the shape and terms in which he states them. It is, therefore, obvious how important the position of the general manager is in relation to the board of directors, when the initiation of all the business that is laid before them, rests with him.

The next point in his relation to the board of directors desirable to notice, is, that he is the organ of communication between the directors and all the inferior officers of the establishment. Although the power of appointment of officers lies necessarily with the board, it is upon the judgment of the general manager they must in a great measure rely, in the choice, appointment, and remuneration of fit persons for the different positions in an establishment. The other officers are more immediately under the observation of the manager than of the board.—He sees and weighs their respective characters and merits, and knows how to pitch upon the most suitable men for the various offices. In this department of his duties, it is superfluous to remark what discrimination he should possess in estimating character and abilities; indeed there is nothing more difficult, in the whole range of a manager's duties, than the skilful selection of suitable men for respective appointments. A heavy responsibility, therefore, rests upon him in this particular, for upon the able and conscientious discharge of this branch of his duties, depend, in a great measure the success of the bank, and the position which all the lower officers will occupy in the estimation of the directors.

There will be many other points on which the manager's judgment will have to be exercised in his capacity of adviser to the board, as, for instance, the disposition of the surplus funds of the bank, in what securities to invest them, what proportion of gold and Bank of England paper to hold against the liabilities of the bank under various and varying circumstances, what dividend or bonus to be paid each half-year, what debts to be written off as bad, and numerous other matters that present themselves in the conduct of a great bank. On all these the general manager's judgment should be the determining test with the board of directors. In short, this high functionary is the central pillar of the management of the bank. Upon some particular points, as, for example, bills of a certain class, proposals from persons in certain lines of business, individual directors may, from a special or accidental knowledge of such bills or business, be able to give information upon which themselves and their colleagues may be enabled to accept or decline. But in the general operations of the bank, and in the average cases brought before the board, the manager's skill and judgment will assuredly be found the safest rule of management for the directors to follow. A board of directors can only give a limited degree of attention to the business before it: its action as being collective is necessarily somewhat cramped. An individual director is nothing in regard to the management, he has no individual authority. The general manager, on the other hand, is completely behind the scenes, and has the whole routine under his eye, in all its parts. He has no other occupation to attend to, and he bestows upon

it his whole time and ability. Emphatically, therefore, it must be repeated that he is the bank. This is not observed in an offensive sense, but simply to state the fact, and to express an opinion that it is best for the interest of banking, that the management should be in its reality what it purports to be. A curious light might be thrown upon this point, if the relative action of the board of directors and the general manager could be traced in the case of those banks that have failed within the last twenty years. It would no doubt be found that too much was left to the directors, that the managers were men of insufficient experience or determination, and hence the ill success of operations.

The third position, viz., the relation of the general manager to the other officers of the bank, remains to be dealt with.

A portion of the remarks applicable to this head has been anticipated in the preceding section. Whether right or wrong in regard to the estimate formed of the general manager's overwhelming authority and influence in the management of a bank generally, there can be no doubt that to all the other officers he is the real and only head; he is, in fact, "the governor" in the eyes of his subordinates as much so as the senior partner in a private bank is to the clerks. To the general manager all the other officers look for appreciation and promotion in due season; they know the board but as a name,—“the governor” they know as a reality. From him they expect reproof or warning if they are negligent or inefficient. From his judgment and fairness they reckon on their prospects in the bank—from him they look for protection against favoritism or undue influence on the part of individual directors in favour of their own connections or protégés. On this point he has a sacred and difficult duty to perform. Nothing will weaken his position and influence more than a laxity on his part in resisting the first approaches towards the appearance even of promotion in the bank being awarded irrespectively of merit and qualification, by the influence of directors. Let him resist such a system in its first insidious approaches, and he will readily succeed in saving the bank and himself the discredit sure to result from it eventually. This raises the question, should promotion go by seniority? Upon the whole, such a policy may be considered doubtful. Other things being equal, the older officers should take precedence in promotion; but in any position the duties of which are not purely mechanical, merit and superior competency ought to secure attention before mere age and standing. At the same time, it would be a great injustice, that if a man were really competent and efficient, he should not take his turn of promotion to the more responsible situations. All that is attempted to be urged is, that especial merit and abilities should obtain for their possessors speedy promotion, on the simple and obvious ground that it would be for the interest of the establishment, as the officers are reared for the posts, and not the posts created for the officers.

There are some further points worthy of observation in regard to this subject. It may seem a fanciful requirement, and irrelevant to his duties, to say that the model general manager should be a married

man ;—and the reason is this, that a married man has in his own experience a knowledge of humanity far beyond that of an individual who remains single all his days. When one looks at the interior of a large banking office, with its fifty or sixty clerks all poring over their work in order and quiet, he is apt to forget that beneath that quiet appearance, each and every one of those clerks has a distinct personality and interest, varying in character, but all equally pressing and important to the individual. Some of them will be married, others single, some young, some middle-aged, and a few old. Will not the general manager, who is himself a married man, and has felt the joys, sorrows, and strivings implied in the rearing of a family, be better able to understand and sympathise with the various characters and wants of the mixed crowd of his inferior officers, who naturally look up to him as the arbiter of their fate, than the lop-sided bachelor, whose experience of the most interesting and important relations of life is but a matter of hearsay or theory? If it be asked, what the manager, as such, has to do with the private matters and interests of those beneath him? it may be replied, much. That will be a sad day for both employers and employed, when the relation between them becomes one only of supply and demand ; when no feeling of human sympathy, and of mutual and common interests, connects them by ties more powerful and enduring than those of a merely economical relation. This being assumed, it will be at once perceived why a bachelor stands at a disadvantage as compared with a married man at the head of a large company, in which the management and government of a numerous staff of officers is one of the most important duties.*

But in a wider sense than as applied to the government of subordinates, the bachelor general manager stands on inferior ground to that occupied by his married brother, as he is apt to contract narrower views, from his practical inexperience of the most important of a man's personal relations ; for it must be admitted that the married state tends to give a weight, purpose, energy, and breadth of character which nothing else can supply. It is also taken for granted that the general manager keeps a good house and table, for the credit of the bank, whose principal officer he is. In most cases he is the only officer of a bank who can be said to have a high salary, and it seems incumbent upon him, therefore, that he should make a respectable figure in society, and entertain occasionally his friends and the connexions of the bank in the style of a gentleman.

Finally, the general manager should be a religious man ; but upon this point it is necessary to guard against misconception. By being a religious man, it is not meant in any narrow sectarian or technical sense ; but, on the contrary, one who acts and thinks habitually under a strong sense of religious and moral obligation, exhibited rather in his character, temper, and actions, than loudly expressed to the world, and thrust down the throats of those who come in contact with him. It is

* In speaking of bachelors and married general managers, it is necessary to state that this is a mere fancy sketch, and does not refer to living specimens.

obvious a different mould of mind is entirely opposed to that which should appear in the first-rate general manager. No doubt he knows that there is much roguery in the world, and as an experienced man of business he will guard against it in an efficient manner; but he is of too enlarged a mind to disbelieve in that general truth and integrity among mercantile men, which constitute the basis of all confidence, and without which, indeed, credit could not exist for a day.

Banking and Commercial Law.

LEADING CASES ON BANKING AND COMMERCIAL LAW.

THE PRESENT STATE OF THE USURY LAWS.

Clack v. Sainsbury, 21 Law Journal Reports, Common Pleas, 41.

Loans of money on bills of exchange and promissory notes payable not more than three months after date, or not having more than three months to run, although collaterally secured by a charge upon land, are lawful at any rate of interest.

This was an action on a bill of exchange for £40, payable at two months after date. The defendant pleaded that the plaintiff had contracted for and taken usurious interest. The plaintiff relied on the 3 & 4 Will. IV., c. 98, s. 7 (set out at length in the note written hereunder).

The defendant contended that this act was impliedly repealed by the 2 & 3 Vict., c. 37. The Court of Common Pleas decided that the 3 & 4 Will. IV., c. 98, s. 7, was not impliedly repealed, and that the proviso in the 2 & 3 Vict., c. 37, affecting security on land, did not apply to cases protected by the 3 & 4 Will. IV., c. 98, s. 7.

Jervis, C. J., said—I am of opinion that the plaintiff is entitled to the judgment of the Court. The action is brought on a bill of exchange at less than three months' date, and the defendant has pleaded in substance that the bill was given in pursuance of an agreement for securing more than £5 per cent. on a loan. The replication alleges that the transaction, which took place after the passing of the 3 & 4 Will. IV., was a loan which was made on the security of a bill, and that the bill was payable at less than three months after date. The rejoinder states that the transaction took place after the statutes of Victoria had passed, and to that the plaintiff has demurred. The plaintiff contends that the operation of the statute of 3 & 4 Will. IV. is not to qualify, but to repeal the statute of Anne as to one class of bills, but on that point it is unnecessary to give an opinion, because the statute of William is a qualification of the statute of Anne, and an exemption of such bills as that in the present case, even though the statute of Anne be not *pro tanto* repealed. The question then arises, whether the case comes within the statute of Victoria, which extends the exemptions from the statute of Anne, subject to a certain proviso; and I am of opinion that the later statute does not

absorb or get rid of the statute of William, and that the two are quite consistent. The legislature seems to have thought that the negotiation of bills at three months should be encouraged, and should therefore be exempt from the usury laws, and subsequently to have been of opinion that the exemption should be applicable to all bills not having more than twelve months to run, provided there was no security on land. I think that the qualification of the statute of Victoria is not applicable to the three months' bills under the 3 & 4 Will. IV.

Maule, J.—I agree that the statute of William is in full operation. The object of that statute was to enable bills of a commercial character to circulate, although they were at a higher rate of interest than £5 per cent., as it was found that more might fairly be taken. For the reasons I have before stated, it would not have been sufficient to describe the bills as mercantile bills, and the legislature therefore confined the provisions of the statute of William to bills such as would comprehend most mercantile transactions. The statute of Victoria took a step in advance as to the usury laws, and was not intended to restrict the exemption before made, but to allow more than £5 per cent. to be taken upon all contracts not relating to land. Contracts of the nature of the present one, protected by the statute of William, were left as before, and it was not intended to deprive them of any protection which they had before under the statute of Will. IV. I do not think that statute is repealed, and it may well stand along with that of Victoria.

The point with regard to security on land was more clearly brought out and decided, in *Nixon v. Phillips*, 21 Law Journal Exchequer, 88. Baron *Parke* there said :—

This case is decided by the authority of *Clack v. Sainsbury*, and I see no reason to quarrel with that decision. It may perhaps have been an oversight in the framers of the act of Parliament, to put on the same footing money secured by bill of exchange, and money secured by land; but we must construe the act of Parliament according to its plain and obvious meaning. The decision of the Court of Common Pleas leans to the conclusion that any amount of interest secured on a bill of exchange payable at three months may be a valid transaction, although there may be in addition the security of landed property.

NOTE.

The present usury laws are not at all well understood by the banking and commercial public, who are so deeply affected by them. It is indeed only very recently that several points have been settled, and amongst them, that which is decided in *Clack v. Sainsbury*.

We propose to take this opportunity to state what the existing law of usury, and consequently what rate of interest may be taken without infringing its provisions.

1st. We have seen from *Clack v. Sainsbury*, and *Nixon v. Phillips*, that the 3 & 4 Will. IV. c. 98, s. 7, renders it legal to take any rate of interest on bills of exchange and promissory notes, payable at three months after date or not having more than three months to run, and that this statute, notwithstanding many opinions to the contrary, is still in force. The following are the words of the act 3 & 4 Will. IV., c. 98, s. 7.

No bill of exchange or promissory note made payable at or within three months after the date thereof, or not having more than three months to run, shall, by reason of any interest taken thereon or secured thereby, or any agreement to pay or receive or allow interest in discounting, negotiating, or transferring the same, be void, nor shall the liability of any party to any bill of exchange or promissory note be affected by reason of any statute or law in force for the prevention of usury, nor shall any person or persons drawing, accepting, indorsing, or signing any such bill or note, or lending or advancing any money, or taking more than the present rate of legal interest in Great Britain and Ireland respectively, for the loan of money on any such bill or note, be subject to any penalties under any statute or law relating to usury, or any other penalty or forfeiture; anything in any law or statute relating to usury in any part of the United Kingdom to the contrary notwithstanding.

It has been decided on this act that if the loan were really made on the security of land, and a bill of exchange or promissory note were thrown in merely as a blind and not as a real security, that the transaction will be usurious. *Berrington v. Collis*, 5 Bingham's New Cases, 332. Also that the section must be strictly confined to the documents named in it, and will not extend to an agreement. *Follett v. Moore*, 4 Exchequer Reports, 410. A promissory note payable *on demand*, is protected. *Vallance v. Siddall*, 7 Law Journal Reports, (Q.B.) 30.

2nd. The 2 & 3 Vict., c. 37, passed for a limited period but continued by various acts, and lastly by the 13 14 Vict., c. 56, until the year 1856, extends the exemption to bills of exchange and promissory notes, having more than three but less than twelve months to run, and to all contracts for loans of money above £10, *provided however that there be no security on land*. The following are the words of that act:—

No bill of exchange or promissory note made payable at or within twelve months after the date thereof, or not having more than twelve months to run, nor any contract for the loan or forbearance of money *above the sum of ten pounds sterling*, shall by reason of any interest taken thereon, or secured thereby, or any agreement to pay or receive, or allow interest in discounting, negotiating or transferring any such bill of exchange or promissory note, be void, nor shall the liability of any party to any such bill of exchange or promissory note, nor the liability of any person borrowing any sum of money as aforesaid, be affected by reason of any statute or law in force for the prevention of usury; nor shall any person or persons, or body corporate, drawing, accepting, indorsing, or signing any such bill or note, or lending, or advancing, or forbearing any money as aforesaid, or taking more than the present rate of legal interest in Great Britain and Ireland respectively for the loan or forbearance of money as aforesaid, be subject to any penalties under any statute or law relating to usury, or any other penalty or forfeiture, anything in any law or statute relating to usury or any other law whatsoever, in force in any part of the United Kingdom, to the contrary notwithstanding. Provided always, that nothing herein contained shall extend to the loan or forbearance of money upon security of any lands, tenements or hereditaments, or any estate or interest therein.

It seems that growing crops are not an interest in land within

this act. *Washbourne v. Burrows*, 16 Law Journal Reports, (Ex.) 266. An interesting discussion arose in the case of *Pen-nell v. Attenborough*, 1 Davison & M., on the question whether a person carrying on the trade of a pawnbroker could lend sums above £10, at more than £5 per cent. per annum interest, without complying with the provisions of the Pawnbrokers' Act. The following is the judgment of the Court of Queen's Bench in that case:

This was an action of trover, by the assignees of a bankrupt, against a pawnbroker, to recover valuable articles pledged with defendant by the bankrupt, before his bankruptcy in 1841, on loans of more than £10, reserving more than £5 per cent. interest, but without entering them in a book, in conformity with statute 39 & 40, Geo. III., c. 99, s. 6. The plea was that the plaintiff was not possessed. A special case was stated for the opinion of this Court, but though it contained some other particulars, the single fact above-mentioned was alone sufficient to raise the questions of law which were argued before us, as to the application to that fact, of statutes 39 & 40, Geo. III., c. 99, and 2 & 3 Vict., c. 37. The former, usually called the Pawnbrokers' Act, following statutes, 30 Geo. II., c. 24, and 24 Geo. III., c. 42, allows pawnbrokers 20 per cent. interest on goods pawned. All these acts prescribe the rate of interest on certain loans, the scale not rising above £10, as if it was uniformly assumed that a larger sum could never be borrowed at one time, at least of a pawnbroker, on a pledge of goods. Some other enactments may indeed raise an argument that this limitation was not intended, but we think all question on this point is removed by the judicial construction which the act has received from Lord Tenterden in *Cowie v. Harris*, Moody and Malkin, 141, and from the Court of Common Pleas in *Tresswing v. Attenborough*, 7 Bingham, 97. Conformably with these decisions, we hold that the Pawnbrokers' Act does not apply to loans of more than £10. Then the loan being such that the usury laws declare void, the question arises whether it is protected by 2 & 3 Vict., c. 37. We have fully considered that act, with all those that have preceded it—namely, 3 & 4 Will. IV., c. 98, s. 7, which repealed the usury laws as affecting bills and notes made payable at three months, or which had only three months to run, and 7 Will. IV. and 1 Vict., which extended the term of three months to twelve. The act now under consideration extended these provisions to loans without bills or notes. Two later statutes have prolonged its operation to the 1st of next July, but they supply no argument on this point. The act of 2 & 3 Vict. was in force at the time of the transactions now under consideration; and without entering into a lengthened discussion of all that may be urged on either side as to the probable intention of the legislature, we hold that the loans in question are within the protection of that act, and that during its continuance usurious loans without real security are lawful. The Court of Exchequer pronounced the same opinion in the late case of *Turquand v. Masedon*, 7 Meeson and Welsby, 504. We entirely agree, feeling the words of the enactment too strong to be overcome.

It has been decided that where money is lent at more than £5 per cent. interest on bills of exchange, and also on the security of land, that the transaction is lawful, except only as to the security on land, and, therefore, that a judgment founded on such a transaction may be enforced against the goods, but not against the lands of the debtor. *Lane v. Horlock*,

22 Law J., ch. 985; in that case Vice-Chancellor Kindersley said :—

"It might be inferred from some of the cases that an opinion had prevailed, that if part of the security given for a loan of money, at more than £5 per cent. interest was the security of land, the proviso in the statute had the effect of rendering void, not only the security of the land, but the whole contract, bills and all. When some of those cases were cited in the course of the argument, it struck me that this could not have been the intention of the legislature. It occurred to me that the intention of the legislature in passing the act with this proviso, was simply that land should never be made a security for the loan of money at more than £5 per cent. interest; but that the loan itself should be valid, and that every species of property whatever, other than land, might be made the security for such loan; and that therefore, having in the prior part of the act enacted, first, that no bill or note not having more than twelve months to run should be void by reason of the rate of interest agreed to be taken; and secondly, that no contract should be void by reason of such rate of interest, which part of the act, if nothing had been superadded, would have validated every sort of security for such loan, whether upon land or otherwise howsoever. The proviso was introduced for the sole purpose of excepting from this universality the single security of land, and not for the purpose of declaring any intention that not only the security on the land should be void, but that the giving or agreeing to give such security should vitiate and render void the whole transaction. The more I have considered the matter, the more strong is the conviction to my mind that this is the true and just and reasonable construction of the act; and taking into consideration the steps by which the legislature gradually relaxed the prohibitions of the usury laws, first by the 3 & 4 Will. IV., exempting only bills or notes having not more than three months to run, then by the 1 & 2 Vict., extending the exemption to bills or notes not having more than twelve months to run, and at length by the 2 & 3 Vict., exempting all contracts whatever, with the special exception as to the security of land, it does appear to me that to hold the whole contract void because one of the securities contracted for is the security of land, is to give a construction to the act altogether beyond the intent and purpose of the legislature."

3rd. In all other cases than those before stated, the usury laws are still in force. The statute is the 12th Anne, c. 16, s. 2, which is as follows :—

No person after the 29th September, 1714, upon any contract made after that day, shall take, directly or indirectly, for loan of any moneys, wares, merchandize or other commodities whatsoever, above the value of £5 for the forbearance of £100 for a year, and so after that rate for a greater or lesser sum, or for a longer or shorter time; and all bonds, contracts and assurances whatsoever made after the time aforesaid, for payment of any principal or money to be lent, or covenanted to be performed upon, or for any usury, whereupon or whereby there shall be reserved or taken above the rate of £5 in £100 as aforesaid, shall be utterly void; and all and every person or persons whatsoever who shall, after the time aforesaid, upon any contract, take, accept and receive by any way or means of any corrupt bargain, loan, exchange, chevisance, shift or interest of any wares, merchandise or any thing or things whatsoever, or by any deceitful way or means, or by any covin, engine or deceitful conveyance for the forbearing or giving day of payment for one whole year of and for their money or other things above £5 for the forbearing of £100 for a year, and so after that rate for a greater or lesser sum, or for a

longer or shorter term, shall forfeit and lose for every such offence the treble value of the moneys, wares, merchandises and other things so lent, bargained, exchanged or shifted.

There have been many decisions on this statute, those that chiefly affect bankers are the following :—

An agreement that London bankers should accept and pay bills of exchange drawn in the country for a commission of 5*s.* per cent., being furnished with funds to pay the bills before they became due, is not usurious, no loan being contemplated. And where a customer applied to his bankers to lend him £4,000 at £5 per cent., which the bankers agreed to, he then asked the bankers what balance he was expected to keep with them, they answered, he could not keep less than £1,000; upon which the customer said, "Very well, they might leave it to him," and the customer paid into and drew out from the banking house in one year various sums, amounting to £108,000, it was held that under the circumstances the loan was not usurious.—*Chitty on Contracts*, 702.

Whether a commission upon a banking account be usurious or not, is a question for the jury, depending upon whether it may be ascribed to a reasonable remuneration for trouble and expense, or whether it be a colour for the payment of interest above 5 per cent. upon a loan of money. *Carstairs v. Stein*, 4 Maule and Selwyn, 192.

SUMMARY.

From the foregoing authorities, the following seems a brief summary of the existing law of usury.

1st. No person can legally take more than £5 per cent. per annum interest on loans under £10, except pawnbrokers, and except on bills of exchange, and promissory notes at less than three months' date, or having less than three months to run.

2nd. Any rate of interest may be taken on bills of exchange and promissory notes, although under £10, at three months' date, or not having more than three months to run; and there may also be collateral security on land for the payment of such bills or notes.

3rd. Any rate of interest may be taken for sums above £10 on bills of exchange and promissory notes of more than three and less than twelve months' date or time to run, and also on all other contracts of similar date, provided there be no landed security.

4th. In all other instances the old usury laws are still in force.

The policy of the usury laws is doubtful. A distinguished writer says :—

"It is plainly in no respect more desirable to limit the rate

of interest than it would be to limit the rate of insurance or the prices of commodities; and though it were desirable, it cannot be accomplished. The real effect of all legislative enactments having such an object in view, is to increase, not diminish the rate of interest. When the rate fixed by law is less than the market or customary rate, lenders and borrowers are obliged to resort to circuitous devices to evade the law; and as these devices are always attended with more or less trouble and risk, the rate of interest is proportionally enhanced. During the late war it was not uncommon for a person to be paying 10 or 12 per cent. for a loan which, had there been no usury laws, he might have got for £6 or £7 per cent. Neither was it by any means uncommon, when the rate fixed by law was more than the market rate, for borrowers to be obliged to pay more than they really stipulated for.”—*McCulloch's Commercial Dictionary*, 732.

LEGAL NOTES.

THE ALTERATION OF THE STAMP DUTY ON INLAND BILLS, &c., AND THE IMPOSITION OF A SIMILAR DUTY ON FOREIGN BILLS, &c.

WE are unable to give the precise terms of the present state of the Bill still before Parliament. From the last copy we have been able to procure, it appears that the scale of duty remains the same as given in our last; that the alteration is to come in force on the 10th of August next; that bills, &c., drawn in and payable out of the United Kingdom in sets must all be duly stamped; and that the stamp on Foreign bills, &c., is to be an adhesive stamp. Notwithstanding the difference of opinion which exists as to the expediency of imposing a stamp duty on Foreign Bills, &c., we think the measure as a whole is a great improvement. It reduces the amount of duty; it simplifies the subject; and although a duty is imposed on Foreign Bills, yet all questions as to what are Foreign bills are thereby saved. There are clauses in the Bill prohibiting the circulation of unstamped cheques more than fifteen miles beyond the bank on which they are drawn; and repealing any prior law which may limit the amount for which a cheque may be drawn; and defining what receipts are liable to duty; and correcting several errors in the late stamp acts.

THE LATE BANK MEETINGS.

PRESSURE on space last month prevented our noticing the results of the several meetings that then took place, and as others have since occurred, we have thought it advisable to incorporate the few remarks

necessary in one general statement. The shareholders of the Provincial Bank of Ireland, and of the National Bank of Ireland, must be well satisfied with the progress of business. The dividends declared, with the position of the reserve funds, show that with the recovered prosperity of the Sister Island there has been an increased field for banking operations. The old feuds which formerly distinguished the proceedings of the National are happily forgotten, and through the improved policy of the management the harmony of action is likely to be rendered permanent. At the meeting of the National Provincial Bank of England, the directors suggested, and the proprietary agreed, to divide the £5,000 voted to the officers as a bonus among them, the guarantee project for their mutual benefit having been abandoned. This satisfactory recognition of services will doubtlessly operate favourably, and act as an incentive to further exertions on the part of the whole staff. The Oriental Bank dividend, at the rate of 15 per cent., exhibits the success of operations by that establishment. Under the able superintendence of the present chairman, great progress has been made in the extension of business, and the new capital required to supply the resource for maintaining its position will be willingly furnished when it can be so profitably employed. The dividend of the Bank of Australasia, and the statement presented to the shareholders, are sufficient guarantee of the marvellous prosperity enjoyed since the period of the gold discoveries; and the appropriation of £200,000 to be separated from the other funds of the establishment to meet future contingencies, is an evidence of the caution exercised by the directors. Old dependencies having been satisfactorily liquidated, no drawback exists to future success. The Bank of British North America, although not situate in the more favoured locality of Australia, has secured, through the development of the Canadian trade, and an extended intercourse with the United States, a large increase of profits, and the balance sheet exhibited furnishes a very gratifying statement of affairs. The dividend of the London Chartered Bank of Australia, considering its recent commencement, is encouraging, the necessity of prudence in the early stages of its career having induced the directors to check an undue expansion of business. The Ionian Bank continues its payment of 5 per cent., and if the transactions have not been important, they have, nevertheless, been conducted on a sound and legitimate basis.

THE CLEARING HOUSE.

THE admission of the London Joint-Stock Banks to the clearing house has at length been accomplished, the London and Westminster taking precedence, and having been followed by the London Joint-Stock, the Union Bank of London, the London and County, and the Commercial of London. The Royal British Bank, it is understood, will be admitted in the course of a few days. This arrangement has been found necessary to avoid pressure upon the temporary accommodation possessed at the Hall of Commerce, while the old Clearing House in Abchurch-lane is undergoing enlargement.

"This question,*" says the *Times*, "which has existed for twenty years, is now therefore, definitively and satisfactorily ended; and there is reason to believe that, coupled with the improvement lately mentioned, by the adoption of cheques on the Bank of England, instead of bank notes, for the settlement of balances, it will cause an amount of circulation to be economised equal at least to £1,000,000 sterling.

MERCANTILE FAILURES.

SINCE the appearance of the *Bankers' Magazine* for June, several failures have occurred, among the principal of which are the following:—The strain upon credit, though severe in some quarters, has not created much alarm, but the effect has been felt not only in this country but also in America. Omitted from our list are two or three insignificant firms, whose liabilities are very trifling in amount.

Shuttleworth and Co., London, auctioneers.
 Sanderson and Reid, London, silk manufacturers.
 S. Zagury, London, foreign merchant.
 Davidson and Gordon, London, colonial brokers.
 J. and J. Hall, Nottingham, hosiery exporters.
 T. Taylor and Sons, Bradford, woollen manufacturers.
 Howatts, Moon and Co., Bradford, woollen manufacturers.
 Halsted and Co., Bradford, woollen manufacturers.
 Wright, Williams and Co., New Orleans, general merchants.
 Platt and Sons, Philadelphia, East Indian and Californian merchants.
 Hall Brothers, New York, merchants, hosiery importers.
 Julius Steding, Moscow, merchant.

This list, although not a long one, presents a considerable amount of liabilities. Shuttleworth and Co. fail with debts to the extent of about £25,000, and the assets appear to be considerable. Sanderson and Reid have stopped for a limited sum, and the prospects of liquidation have not been made public. In the case of S. Zagury the liabilities are placed at about £20,000 to £25,000. Davidson and Gordon's suspension is the most important of the metropolitan firms. They have engaged in a distillery business, besides their colonial produce and metal agencies, and have unfortunately contracted very large responsibilities. The assets are quite uncertain, owing to the deranged state of their affairs. Proceedings in bankruptcy have already been commenced against the partners, who were connected with Sargent, Gordon and Co., who failed in the crisis of 1847-48. The manufacturing suspensions involve liabilities to the extent of about £200,000 to £300,000. Taylor and Sons, of Bradford, and J. and J. Hall, of Nottingham, are the chief; but it is impossible at present to say what will be the ultimate dividends paid. In both instances, however, they are expected to be favourable. J. and J. Hall, of Nottingham, and Hall and Co., of New York, are identical firms, and arrangements for liquidation will be made in America. The suspension of J. Steding of Moscow, is for about £40,000.

* All who desire to be fully acquainted with the facilities and privileges afforded by the Clearing House, will find them lucidly detailed in the "Elements of Banking" (second edition), by Mr. J. W. Gilbart.

Legal Miscellany.

BILLS OF EXCHANGE.

SUPREME COURT OF PENNSYLVANIA, MAY 16, 1854.

THE following opinion in the matter of bills of exchange, delivered by Judge Lewis, is of interest to the mercantile community.

Lennig v. Ralston et al—Error to the District Court of Philadelphia.—Lewis, J.—This suit is brought for the benefit of the Commercial Bank of London, upon an instrument which bears upon its face every mark of a foreign bill of exchange, drawn in Philadelphia upon a house in London, and accepted by the latter. It is true that the bill was not actually negotiated in this State, so that it is not, within the letter of the statute of 1821, a bill "drawn in Pennsylvania." The drawers had a mercantile house in Philadelphia, and they placed "Philadelphia" at the head of the bills as the place at which it had to bear date, leaving blanks for the day of the month, and the year. They fixed the amount of it and signed it, leaving blanks also for the period which the bill had to run before maturity, and for the names of the payee and acceptors. All this was done by the defendants here. The instrument was then sent, in this imperfect condition, to their partner in London. This authorised him to fill the blanks and negotiate it in London, and he did so. It was purchased by the bank without any notice of the manner in which it originated, or of the fact that it was issued in that city and not in Philadelphia. When that institution became the holder it bore the dress of a bill of exchange drawn in Pennsylvania; and, upon the principle that every one is presumed to intend to produce all the consequences to which his acts naturally and necessarily lead, the presumption is that the defendants intended that the purchasers of it should receive it under the belief that it was a bill drawn in Philadelphia in the usual course of business. The question is whether they shall be compelled to perform their contract in the sense in which they compelled the opposite party to understand it, or in a sense contemplated only by themselves, and entirely excluded by the terms of the instrument itself. It is very material to the parties that this question should be properly decided. The bill was drawn on July 3, 1850. The act of May 13, 1850, reducing the damages on dishonoured foreign bills of exchange to 10 per cent., contains a provision limiting its operation to bills drawn after the 1st of August, 1850. So that, if the bill in question is to be enforced according to its terms, the act of 30th March, 1821, giving 20 per cent. damages for its dishonour, furnishes the rule of decision.

There is no reason why the statute of 1821 should not receive a liberal construction. It has been held that it is not a penal, but, on the contrary, it is a remedial act; that the damages given are not for punishment, but are intended as compensation; that its provisions are just and equitable, and highly necessary in a commercial community, to guard the interests of innocent individuals, and to secure good faith in commercial transactions. (5 Wharton, 425.) No one can foresee the extent of the injury which the holder of a foreign bill of exchange may suffer from its dishonour. It is not like a domestic obligation, the breach of which can, in general, be repaired by the presence and credit of the holder. But the dishonour of foreign bills may occur, and usually does occur, at points where the holders cannot supervise the result, and where they have neither means nor credit to provide against the injury. These instruments are generally procured at a premium by the holders for the purpose of making their purchases in the country where they are payable, or as the means of pursuing their travels, or maintaining their

credit abroad. The great distance between the residence of the drawers and that of the acceptors, must necessarily cause great delay in procuring indemnity from the former. In the meantime the loss to the holders, if they rely exclusively upon the bills to maintain their credit, and carry on their business, might be irreparable. Under such circumstances the recovery of the face of the bill only, with the usual interest, re-exchange, and costs, would be but a cold and inadequate remedy for so great an injury. The act of 1821 was deemed necessary, in order to do justice in such cases, and for the purpose of maintaining our commercial credit in other countries. It should receive such a construction as will best promote the intentions of the legislature in these respects. Upon the whole, we are of opinion that the bill should be met by the drawers in the sense in which they manifestly intended that it should be received by the holder, and we think that the District Court was in error in adopting a different rule.

Judgment reversed, and judgment for the plaintiff in error for 1,453 dols. 31c., with interest from the 18th of May, 1852, and costs of suit.

House of Lords, Tuesday, May 16.

The Peers present were the Lord Chancellor, Lord Brougham, and other noble lords.

UNION BANK.—ORR AND OTHERS *v.* THE UNION BANK OF SCOTLAND.

Mr. H. Hill appeared for the appellants, and Mr. Bliss, with Mr. Forsyth, represented the respondents. This was an appeal from an interlocutor pronounced by the first division of the Court of Session in Scotland, in a suit wherein the appellants were the pursuers, and the respondents the defenders. The appellants were Messrs. William Orr and Alfred Barber, merchants in Liverpool; Mr. James Tassie, a merchant in Glasgow; and Mr. Charles Campbell, also a merchant in Glasgow; whilst the respondents were the directors and managers of the Union Bank of Scotland. It appeared that a merchant in Glasgow, of the name of John Gordon Campbell, was accustomed to have business transactions with the firm of Orr and Barber in Liverpool, and that in the course of such transactions he became indebted to that house in the sum of £460 9s., whereupon, on the 22nd of October, 1844, he paid into the Union Bank at Glasgow the sum of £460 9s., to be paid to Messrs. Orr and Barber, in Liverpool, and at the same time filled up the usual printed bank slip in the following terms:—

“ No. 583. Union Bank of Scotland, Oct. 22, 1844.

“ Wanted credit on Liverpool for £460 9s., payable to Messrs. Orr and Barber.”

In return for his money, Mr. Campbell received from the bank a letter of credit in the following terms:—

“ Union Bank of Scotland, Glasgow,
Oct. 22, 1844

“ No. 15,583, A. A.

“ Please to honour the drafts of Messrs. Orr and Barber to the extent of £460 9s., which charge to the bank.

“ I am your very obedient servant,

“ £460 9s.

“ J. WATSON, Cashier.

“ Entered, M. G. H.

“ To the Manchester and Liverpool District Bank,
Liverpool.—Not transferable.”

The Union Bank did not write to the Liverpool District Bank that this letter of credit had been granted, as they ought to have done; but the very day on which it was granted Mr. Campbell transmitted it by post, under cover to

Orr and Barber, at Liverpool. It so happened that when the letter reached, or should have reached Liverpool, both Mr. Orr and Mr. Barber were absent. Mr. Barber conducted the business of the company at Buenos Ayres, and had been for many years resident abroad. Mr. Orr, whose department was to conduct the business at home, was absent in Ireland. He went there on the 18th, and returned on the 31st of October, 1844, having been absent for 12 days. Orr and Barber had only one clerk in the counting-house in Liverpool, Mr. F. R. Smith, who was of course left in charge of the office in Mr. Orr's absence. It further appeared that the letter enclosing the letter of credit had reached Liverpool in due course, and on the 25th of October, 1844, Smith advised Mr. Campbell of its receipt. Mr. Orr returned to Liverpool on the 31st, within a week of the arrival of the letter. On going to the counting-house he found Mr. Campbell's letter, advising the remittance, but the letter of credit was gone. He then went to the District Bank to make inquiries, and if possible to operate on the credit; but he was then informed that the money had been already paid on a draft or order previously presented; whereupon he immediately answered that no draft or order had been drawn by him, or by the firm of Orr and Barber, and that no payment had been made on account of the firm. The District Bank did not refuse payment at the time, but, seeing that they had been imposed upon by some one who had forged Orr and Barber's signature when Mr. Orr was from home, they requested time to consider whether, notwithstanding the previous payment, they would honour Mr. Orr's draft in the name of the firm. Upon its being discovered that Smith, the clerk of Orr and Co., had absconded with certain moneys belonging to his employers, it at once occurred to the minds of the latter that this draft had been paid to him, but on inquiring for him he was not to be found. The appellants thereupon demanded payment from the respondents, who refusing, an action was commenced to enforce payment, upon the ground that the Union Bank had failed to perform what they had undertaken, namely, to establish a credit at the Liverpool bank for the sum of £460 9s. in favour of the appellants, and further, that they had not accepted or fulfilled the mandate contained in the letter of credit, that they had not honoured the draft, and had refused to give credit to the Liverpool bank for the sum in question, as having been paid to their account. It was then averred that they had still in their hands the particular sum which had been paid to them by the late Mr. John Gordon Campbell. The respondents, however, in the Court below maintained that the letter of credit having been duly delivered at the place of business of the appellants, in accordance with the arrangement made, the claim upon them had been duly satisfied, and therefore that as they had no further claim on him he had no right to sue; that, Campbell's debt to the appellants having been thus discharged, they had no claim upon the respondents in consequence of the non-implementation of the terms of the letter, inasmuch as that there was no privity of contract between the appellants and the respondents. The Court below held in favour of the respondents, intimating that the liability, if any, attached to the bank at Liverpool, and the present appeal was against that decision. On behalf of the appellants it was contended that it was competent to the individual who obtained a letter of credit in favour of another to countermand payment at any time prior to the money having been actually paid, or that some binding engagement had been entered into by the party to whom the letter of credit was addressed with the person in whose favour it was drawn, so as to give the latter a remedy by action against the former. In the present instance it was argued there was no such engagement or payment, because the draft upon the Liverpool bank was a forgery, and because the clerk, Smith, had not acted with the authority of his principals in this dealing with that bank: that they had not ratified his acts, nor could they without ratifying all, including

his felonious receipt of the money. It was urged, also, that the amount paid for the letter of credit was recoverable as upon a failure of consideration, and that the Scotch bank was in the position of agents employed to pay over money, who had not paid it over, or had engaged with the intended payee to pay it over; and that they were therefore bound to return the said amount upon demand. On the other hand, it was submitted for the respondents that the appellants had not shown any contract which had been broken by them, and then that they had not fulfilled the conditions which would have entitled them to maintain the action.—The arguments having been brought to a conclusion, the Lord Chancellor announced that their lordships would consider their judgment.

Bank Meetings.

THE ORIENTAL BANK CORPORATION.

General Statement and Balance-Sheet for the Year ending 31st Dec., 1853.

LIABILITIES.

To promissory notes in circulation not bearing interest	£76,380	12	6
Bills of exchange in circulation not bearing interest	1,438,547	4	0
Balances due to other banks	95,213	7	11
Cash deposits not bearing interest	224,851	3	0
Cash deposits bearing interest	1,135,356	14	4
Total due to the public	£2,970,349	1	9
Capital paid up	£942,450	0	0
Reserved surplus fund	188,440	0	0
Dividends remaining unpaid	1,145	18	1
Balance of profit and loss after defraying all current charges	84,820	10	0
Due to shareholders		1,216,856	8 1
Branch balances with the head office and with each other		1,689,857	18 8
•	£5,877,063	8	6

ASSETS.

By coin and bullion	£925,827	8	1
Balances due from other banks	212,831	16	4
Promissory notes or bills of other banks	36,511	0	11
Sum	1,175,170	5	4
Government securities	904,319	1	2
Landed or other property of the corporation ..	53,373	12	1
Debts secured by landed or other property ..	166	9	11
Notes and bills discounted, or other debts due to the corporation not included under the foregoing heads, and exclusive of debts abandoned as bad	3,744,034	0	0
£5,877,063	8	6	

Profit and Loss Account.

<i>Dr.</i> —To amount paid as dividend for the half-year			
ending 30th June, 1853	..	..	£50,448 0 2
Balance of profit as above	..	..	84,820 10 0
			£135,268 10 2
<i>Cr.</i> —By amount of net profit at 31st December,			
1853, after defraying all charges	..	..	135,268 10 2
			£135,268 10 2

COMMERCIAL BANK OF INDIA.

THE yearly general meeting of the Commercial Bank of India was held at the bank office in Rampart-row, on the 27th of February, Mr. J. Jefferson in the chair, when the following report was presented.

" On the 31st December last, the amount at debit of the Ceylon property account, was Rs. 4,712. In March, the late Mr. Brooks completed his purchase of the Cocoanut Estate, and a further portion of forest lands has since been sold for Rs. 1,606, leaving to credit of this account, after deducting expenses, a balance of Rs. 1,393-11-10, which has been carried to credit of the reserve fund. The bank still holds a large quantity of forest land in Ceylon. The only past due bill standing in the books of the bank, namely, Rs. 1,010-9-1 on Mooteeram Mayaram, has been written off to the debit of reserve fund, and any sums which may hereafter be recovered on this account will be carried to the credit of the same. Notice has been given in Calcutta of a further dividend on the Estate of Saunders, May, Fordyce and Co., on which the bank is a creditor to the extent of £2,000; this dividend when received will also go to the credit of the reserve fund, the above debt having been written off to profit and loss in 1848. The attention of the directors having been drawn to the advantages which might result to the bank by the establishment of an agent of its own in Calcutta, by which a much larger amount of business might be transacted at an expense not much exceeding the commissions hitherto paid to the bank's agents there, the board resolved in May last to take steps to carry out that object, and, with that view, directed Mr. McLachlan, their agent in China, to proceed to Calcutta to open a branch there, and Mr. Costerton was sent from Bombay to take his place in Canton; the directors have every reason to be satisfied with the results of these arrangements. The establishment of an agency at Shanghai next occupied the attention of the directors, and Mr. Nun Chandler was appointed to that duty. By the mails of the 9th and 25th ultimo, the directors received accounts of the opening of the branch of this bank there. To meet these extended operations, the directors submitted certain resolutions to a general meeting of the shareholders held on the 17th October last, having for their object an increase of the capital of this company to about 45 lacs by an issue of new shares, in conformity with clause 47 of the deed of settlement. Such new shares to be allowed to the shareholders in the proportion of one new to each three old shares held by them, and to be paid for by monthly instalments of Rs. 100 each, with a premium of 15 per cent. The chairman on that occasion stating to the meeting that one of the objects of the directors in their calling for a premium was, to increase the reserve fund, at that time amounting to Rs. 4½ per cent. on the capital, estimating that the premium so to be received added to the excess of profits over dividends for the year, might be fairly calculated to make up the reserve fund on 30th June, 1854 (when the new issue would

be paid up) to 10 per cent. on the entire capital of the bank. This amount of reserve they considered would give the public increased confidence in the establishment and its means to maintain its dividends in future, and to be required as a stand-by for an institution dealing largely in bills of exchange; and further, that with this reserve, the entire profit made in each year, might in future be divided among the shareholders after deducting the $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. required by the deed of settlement to be added in each year until it shall amount to 20 per cent. The directors are happy to find that their estimates of profits for the year have been fully realized,—they amount, after deducting all charges, to $12\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. upon the net capital, and after paying a dividend of $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. for the first, and $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. for the second half-year, a further sum of Rs. 1,55,172, say $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. on the capital, has been added to the reserve fund; this account increased by the addition of Rs. 171,450 for premium on new shares will thus, on 30th June next, with the $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. required by the deed of settlement exceed the 10 per cent. on the capital, to which the directors had limited themselves; and considering the shareholders entitled, as stated at the meeting in October, to any surplus over that amount, they decided upon paying a bonus of 1 per cent out of the profits of last year to all holders of shares, on the 25th ultimo,—the day of closing the books for issue of the new shares, thus, in fact, making a dividend of 9 per cent for the year, and carrying $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. to the reserve, which will, on the 30th June next, amount to Rs. 4,572,74, or say, fully 10 per cent. on the paid-up capital. During the past year, Mr. L. Wallace, the chairman, left for England, and the board appointed Mr. W. Wallace to the vacancy in the direction, until the general meeting of the shareholders. Mr. Anderson having retired from the appointment held by him as manager of the bank, the directors have taken measures to fill up the appointment by securing the services of a party from England."

The report, after some discussion, was carried.

BANK OF BRAZIL.

Statement of Accounts, ending April 29, 1854.

ASSETS.			
Shareholders—unpaid capital	Rs. 27,800,000	000	
Bills discounted—with 2 resident firms	Rs. 4,715,228	610	
„ „ with 1 resident firm	21,000	000	4,736,228 610
Bills discounted upon deposits—of specie, bullion and commercial securities	566,850	000	
„ „ of other securities and merchandise	898,574	000	1,465,424 000
Sundries—amount of divers accounts forming part of the assets of the bank		392,996	371
Profit and Loss—interest and sundry expenses		33,61	656
Cash Account—balance in hand, viz.: in Coin; gold and silver	4,851,611	706	
in Bullion		4,851,611	706
		<u>39,279,874</u>	<u>343</u>

LIABILITIES.			
Capital—amount as per charter	Rs.	30,000,000	000
Reserve Fund—6 per cent. profits	..	..	..
Issue—amount of notes in circulation	..	2,874,300	000
Bills Payable—amount received upon interest	..	3,235,697	635
Accounts Current—balance of deposits	..	3,047,406	104
Profit and Loss—profits on sundry operations	..	122,470	604
		<u>39,279,874</u>	<u>343</u>

(Signed) JOAO DUARTE LISBOA SERRA, President.

(Signed) JOAO FREDERICO MOLLER, Chief Accountant.

Rio de Janeiro, May 1st, 1854.

BANK OF BRITISH NORTH AMERICA.

THE annual general meeting of this bank was held on the 7th of June, at their house in St. Helen's-place; Mr. Gillespie in the chair.

The Secretary having read the advertisement convening the meeting, proceeded to read the following report:—The statement of the accounts, which is to-day laid before the proprietors, gives satisfactory evidence that the opinion expressed by the directors in their last report was well founded, and that the general prosperity which then distinguished the North American colonies was of a character to have an important effect in increasing the profits of the bank. The net profits which the directors reported for 1852, amounted to £69,476 18s. 3d.: those of 1853 amount to £100,650 17s. 10d.; being an increase of very nearly 45 per cent. This increase is the result of a general extension of the business of the bank in every department, by which ample and profitable employment has been found for the whole of the capital. The directors are also gratified in being able to report that the accounts from the branches, so far as they have been received for the year 1854, are highly satisfactory. Although the trade and commerce of the North American colonies may not be considered as being directly exposed to injury from the existing state of warfare on the Continent of Europe, the possible consequences of its influence on the English money market have not been overlooked by the directors. They will, therefore, endeavour so to regulate the business of the several branches of the bank as to guard it against the risks to which any contingencies may possibly give rise. In the year 1852, when the dividend was raised from 5 to 6 per cent. per annum, it was intimated, that if the profits should at any future time again fall off, your directors would, without hesitation, reduce the rate of dividend; and that, on the other hand, whenever the profits should be found to accumulate considerably, after providing for the dividend at the rate of 6 per cent., they would have much pleasure in dividing a bonus. The directors are of opinion, that the time has now arrived when the accounts will justify them in affording an increased return to the proprietors. It will be seen by the statement, that on the 1st January last, after providing for the dividend payable in January, and also for all known bad and doubtful debts, the balance of undivided net profit or rest amounted to £125,349 10s., showing an increase of £40,650 7s. 10d. during the year. The directors have, therefore, decided, in addition to the usual half-yearly dividend at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum, to appropriate a portion of this increase, amounting to £25,000, to the payment on the 5th July next of the farther sum of 25s. per share, being 2½ per cent. on the capital stock of the bank.

BALANCE SHEET, DEC. 31, 1853.

LIABILITIES.					
Capital	..	..	..	..	£1,000,000 0 0
Circulation	..	..	..	..	661,629 0 10
Deposits	..	..	..	..	586,437 14 6
Bills payable and other liabilities	..	..	..	..	686,135 5 3
Reserve for Christmas dividend	..	..	..	..	30,000 0 0
Undivided net profit	..	..	..	..	125,349 10 0
					£3,089,551 10 7
ASSETS.					
Specie and cash at bankers	..	..	..	..	£284,573 14 11
Bills receivable and other securities	..	..	..	..	2,758,477 15 8
Bank premises	..	..	..	..	46,500 0 0
					£3,089,551 10 7

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT TO DEC. 31, 1853.

Dividends declared as follows :—					
At Midsummer, 1853, payable July, 1853	..	..	..	..	£30,000
At Christmas, 1853, payable January, 1854	..	..	..	..	30,000
					£60,000 0 0
Balance in hand being undivided net profit to Dec. 31, 1853	..	..	..	..	125,349 10 0
					£185,349 10 0
Balance of undivided net profit to Dec. 31, 1852	..	..	..	..	£84,698 12 2
Net profit for the year 1853, after deduction of all current charges, and providing for bad and doubtful debts	..	..	..	..	100,650 17 10
					£185,349 10 0

The Chairman said, if the report and statement of accounts which had just been read were satisfactory to the proprietors it was very gratifying to the court to have been enabled to present a statement such as that which had been submitted to the proprietors. The proprietors would perceive that having already paid 6 per cent. dividend on the past year, the additional sum of 25s. which they now proposed to give would give $8\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. dividend for the year 1853; and that after securing the dividend by the appropriation of the sum of £25,000, the directors added to the rest a sum of £16,000, leaving a sum of over £100,000 as constituting the rest. With reference to the rest, he wished to advert to one point, which was not, perhaps, clearly understood by all the proprietors, because, in the case of some banks, in what they called the reserve fund there was included not only the rest, but as he understood, a reserve to meet bad debts. He wished to state that this was altogether irrespective of the reserve which this bank made to cover bad debts; and he was gratified to state that the directors believed that the present reserve fund was more than sufficient to meet any probable claim that could be made upon it. He was happy to state the fact that in the course of the past year

the directors had been able to close up four accounts of old standing in respect of which they had anticipated a very considerable loss to the bank—two of the largest magnitude—one arising out of the unfortunate year 1847, and the other being of still older date; but when they came to close these accounts they found the reserve, which had been made from year to year, had materially exceeded the loss incurred upon them. With regard to the future, he did not wish to say much beyond what was stated in the report. The proprietors would perceive that they had mentioned, that so far as regarded the accounts of 1854, they were extremely satisfactory. Of course the proprietors would not expect an increase in proportion to what they had last year, but they showed an increase, and their business was going on very satisfactorily, and he might say, though he could not hold out expectations of those golden showers which had come into the laps of the more fortunate proprietors of Eastern banks, he thought he might hold out the expectation that, for the capital embarked, they would obtain a fair and steady return.

Mr. Borrodaile said the report was so exceedingly satisfactory, that the most fastidious person could hardly offer any objection to it. He thought, however, that the chairman was somewhat in error in stating that there were some companies who included in the reserve fund the rest; but it was clear, he thought, that the rest should be kept intact, and he should be sorry that in any bank he was concerned a contrary course was adopted. Now, the information from the colonies was satisfactory, the rest they had amounted to £100,000, and more, and they had merely tasted the sweets of a bonus, and he believed they would soon come in as regularly as dividends. It would, however, be satisfactory to be informed that the guarantee fund should remain at £100,000, so that when they knew they were doing well, they should also know that fund should not be increased to £120,000, and that the surplus of profits after the reserve of £100,000 should go to increase the dividend, or as a bonus. He himself felt strongly on this point, and, perhaps, the meeting would give an echo to his views. Was it the understanding that over and above the sum of £100,000 such sum should be divided among the proprietary?

The Chairman said they had great practical authority that it was dangerous to commit themselves to an abstract principle. He thought he could not make such a declaration as that which his honourable friend asked the directors to make. They had not come to a decision on the subject; and he could only say that this matter, as all others, would meet every consideration from the directors.

The report was then unanimously adopted, and votes of thanks to the directors and officers were passed.

BANK OF IRELAND.

At a general court of proprietors of the Bank of Ireland, held on Monday, the 13th of June, the secretary read the following report from the directors:—

“That it is the opinion of the court that a dividend of $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. be made to the proprietors of bank stock, free from income tax, for the half-year ending the 24th inst.; that further notice be given that the payment will be made at the bank on and after Saturday, the 1st of July; that the transfer-books be shut from the 12th inst. until the 1st of July.

“B. STUART, Governor.”

The report having been adopted, the governor said, that after making this dividend, he had much pleasure in stating that there remained a sum of £13,000, according to estimate, to be carried to the surplus fund.

BANK OF AUSTRALASIA.

THE meeting of the Bank of Australasia took place at the office of the corporation, Austin Friars, on the 19th June, Mr. O. Farrer in the chair, when the following report was presented:—

“The following statement of account will show the result of the business of the corporation for the financial year ending the 10th of October, 1853:—

Balance at credit of profit and loss, 11th October, 1852, as per last report	£194,109	15	1
Net profit in the Australian colonies and in London, in the year, to 10th October, 1853 ..	250,783	4	7
	<u>£444,892</u>	<u>19</u>	<u>8</u>

Deduct, divided among the proprietors, including bonuses—

At April, 1853, £2 8s. per share, and at July, 12s. per share; making together for the half-year £3 per share, being at the rate of 15 per cent. per annum .	£67,500		
At October, 1853, £3 per share, or at the rate of 15 per cent. per annum ..	67,500		
		<u>135,000</u>	<u>0 0</u>

Surplus	£309,892	19	8
Whereof—Set apart as a guarantee fund ..	200,000	0	0

Balance at credit of profit and loss, 10th Oct., 1853	<u>£109,892</u>	<u>19</u>	<u>8</u>
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Out of which the April dividend and bonus of the current year, increased to 17½ per cent., have been paid, amounting to £78,750.

The assets and liabilities stood as follows:—

Assets.

Gold, government securities, and cash	£4,012,461	17	6
Bank premises	49,190	0	0
Bills receivable and other securities	3,047,218	6	11
	<u>£7,108,870</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>

Liabilities.

Capital	£900,000	0	0
Guarantee fund	200,000	0	0
Circulation	1,128,531	0	0
Bills payable and other liabilities	693,293	3	8
Deposits	4,077,153	1	1
Profit and loss, after deducting guarantee fund as above	109,892	19	8
	<u>£7,108,870</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>

The directors congratulate the proprietors on these results, which fully bear out the opinions expressed in former reports, and which have been attained in pursuance of a course of sound and legitimate business. The high state of prosperity enjoyed by the Australian colonies, arising from the general expansion of commerce, the further discovery of rich and widely spread gold fields,

and the large increase of population, together with the commencement of many important works of great public utility during the past year, encourage the hope that this course of prosperity will continue, and be productive of commensurate advantage to the bank. The directors refer with much satisfaction to the formation of the guarantee fund, an object which has been earnestly desired, both by the shareholders and the directors, and which having now been effected, will render a larger proportion of the future profits available for division among the shareholders. The permanent investment of the £200,000 thus set apart from the undivided profits of the bank, is now engaging the consideration of the court. With the view of meeting the increasing demand for banking accommodation in districts which have grown into importance, measures have been taken for opening new branches. The formation of three of these—Belfast and Portland, in the colony of Victoria, and Ipswich at Moreton Bay—was announced at the December meeting; to which two have since been added—one at Goulburn, situated between Sydney and Melbourne, and another at Newcastle, at the mouth of the river Hunter. The directors have conferred the vacant office of assistant superintendent upon Mr. D. C. M'Arthur, an appointment which he has fully merited by his long, able, and faithful services. Mr. M'Arthur will however continue to hold his present office of manager of the Melbourne Branch. The directors have again the pleasing duty of placing on record their high opinion of the services of the superintendent, Mr. J. J. Falconer, and the colonial management generally, whose zealous attention to the important interests confided to their charge calls for the highest commendation."

The Chairman—Gentlemen, custom has rendered it almost an imperative duty upon a chairman to make some few observations upon the report which is presented to a public meeting. If it had not been so firmly established a custom, I believe that my most prudent plan would have been to let the report speak for itself, and to have confined myself to answering any questions that might suggest themselves to any gentleman present. However, I will not depart from the usual rule, but will, with your permission, make a few—and they shall be only a few—observations upon the report. In fact, gentlemen, in what I have to say I must take the report as my text. It is altogether a subject of congratulation. (Hear, hear.) Our course during the whole of the last year has been one of uninterrupted prosperity. (Applause.) And I think that those who will consider what was stated to them only so lately as last December, will see that we did not then paint in too high colours our expectations of success; for we have far exceeded the expectations which we then held out. (Hear, hear.) I hope that we shall always rather make our statement to you under the mark than over the mark; for it is always more pleasing to progress than to recede. If I could at all contemplate any questions that were likely to be asked, I would endeavour to anticipate and answer them. Upon looking at the report, it seems to me that if I were a shareholder (and therefore I suppose all other gentlemen may be actuated much in the same way), one of the most interesting points I should put my finger upon, would be that upon which I think we may all greatly congratulate ourselves upon having achieved—namely, the guarantee fund. (Cheers.) I question whether if anybody, even the wildest visionary, four years ago had foretold what would be the position of your establishment at this day, he would not have been pointed at as a madman. But I will not say four years ago; I will only go back as far as October, 1852, when the profits for the year between 1851 and 1852 were brought to account. At that time we had as nearly as possible a clear sheet. We had paid the October dividend of that year, but after having paid it we had exhausted the funds which we then had in hand, except that there then came a year's profit to be taken into account. In the year 1851,

the balance of undivided profit was £50,000. That was absorbed in the payment of the October dividend. Our undivided profits in the year ending October, 1852, were £194,000 odd, and in the year ending October, 1853, which is the year of account that we are now laying before you, it is £309,800. (Loud cheers.) From that sum of £309,800, we have deducted £200,000, with your sanction, which I am sure will meet with the approbation of every proprietor, to be a permanent guarantee fund (hear, hear), to be prepared against any great misfortune which may hereafter arise; for as to any concern that can produce such extraordinary variation in so short a time, it is hardly possible not to contemplate the occurrence at some future time, however unforeseen at present, of fluctuations of a different character. (Hear, hear.) It is, therefore, surely acting the part of prudent men in the great prosperity which we have enjoyed, to prepare against such a possible contingency; although, speaking at the present moment, there is no more apprehension of it existing in our minds than there was this time last year. Still it is utterly impossible, that things can go on progressing as they have done; and we all know—I know it painfully—what the position of an establishment is when it is suffering under severe calamity. In this establishment, since I have belonged to it, we have had strange fluctuations. We began with large apparent profits; unfortunately they were more in appearance than in reality. We were misled by that, and the consequence was an awful reaction; and by calamitous losses, for a time, we were under the necessity of suspending our dividends altogether. Any more painful situation than that in which those who were your directors at that time were placed, cannot well be conceived. For myself, I can say that I felt it keenly, and no power on earth, but a feeling of imperative duty to the shareholders could have kept me in the position in which I now am. And to show how wrongly I should have acted had I done otherwise than I did, where are we now? I do not hesitate to say that since our establishment was first formed, it never was standing so firmly, so securely, so transcendantly prosperous, as it is at this moment. (Applause.) I can assure you that we are like burnt children dreading the fire, and that we have acted so as to place the prosperity of the establishment upon a firm basis. We have no fictitious profits, unduly made; I believe that we are in as secure a position as any concern carrying on such immense operations as we do can be. But every man of business must feel that it is impossible to be dealing with millions and millions without having, at some time or other, losses inevitably ensuing; but I will state now while I am upon this point, that I may not have to trouble you by recurring to it, that I do not believe that we have made a bad debt of a shilling during the past year. (Hear, hear.) I have in my hand a letter from one of our managers, speaking of the present state of the colonies, and referring to the fears which were entertained that from the great increase of imports into the colonies some disastrous results might ensue. I will not trouble you by reading the letter, but it is of a most satisfactory character. He says that the apprehensions were far, far more exaggerated than anybody had any reason to expect; that his bills are all punctually and well paid; and that the only evil that has arisen has been to a few small shop-keepers and traders who had overdone themselves, having no capital to fall back upon. He says, as to his own bills, the few that were returned by that class of persons are duly and regularly taken up by his other endorsers; and that at the time of writing this letter, he only had upon his past due list three bills which had been past due for a week, and that they were perfectly secure, and that he did not apprehend any loss whatever upon them. (Cheers.) Now, when we look at the enormous amount of the transactions that have been gone through during the year, I confess, this to me is perfectly surprising. Gentlemen, the progress of the colonies,

and of our own bank in particular, has been most extraordinary. Others perhaps may be able to show even higher figures, but if they can but show as much as we are enabled to do, I think all moderate persons will be or ought to be satisfied. Our profits up to October, 1851, (for that year), were £70,071; up to October, 1852, they were £193,242; and for the last year, £250,783. (Applause.) During the same time, the circulation was, to October, 1851, £149,000; to October, 1852, £659,000; and to October, 1853, £1,128,531. (Cheers.) As to the present year, I will only say, that as to every branch of our business, up to the last accounts, a satisfactory progress is shown; I do not mean, nor do I wish you to understand, that we can expect hereafter to realize to the full extent the same degree of profits that we have been hitherto doing of £250,000, because the course of business has altogether changed—it is no longer great profits made upon buying and selling gold, but our business now consists of real legitimate banking, where, although the profits are small comparatively, when they come upon very large sums, they amount to large sums. That is our case now, and as a satisfactory proof of our position in that respect I will merely instance the state of our local bills. Our local bills, which is the legitimate source of banking, are going on in all countries—in the colonies as well as here. Up to October, 1851, our local bills were £690,000; to the end of October, 1852, they were £768,000; and to the end of October, 1853, they were £1,430,000. They have gone on since increasing, and as I said before, that is the legitimate source of banking; and although profits are not made by handfuls as it were, as when we were dealing with gold, yet if care is exercised, it is certain, and must result satisfactorily. (Applause.) The amounts of drafts drawn upon us in the year between May, 1852, and May, 1853, was £699,000; from May, 1853, to May, 1854, they have amounted to within a fraction of three millions; at the same time the number of bills drawn upon us has been between 11,000 and 12,000. You will, therefore, see that the extent of business has become very large indeed. You will say, that I am departing from my original intention in stating all these facts, but all these circumstances will show you that the directors have under consideration the permanent investment of this fund of £200,000. Some persons may say, why not invest it at once—it is very easy to do it;—I will tell you why, because all this change of circumstance would have rendered it very imprudent, indeed almost impossible to have abstracted from our business at once a sum of £200,000, but we have transferred it in our books, and we only wait until orders can be sent out, and the money taken hold of, to separate it from the rest of the capital (hear, hear); and gentlemen may be assured of this, that if I remain here (and there is not one of my colleagues who does not agree with me,) that sum shall be separated, and it shall be kept apart for the avowed purpose—the protection of your £900,000. (Applause.) But although that is a most imperative duty, and although it was with that view that this guarantee fund was formed, I am sure that every gentleman will agree with me in thinking that it should not be done at a great and uncalled for sacrifice in a moment; but bearing that in mind, it shall be done, and I give you my assurance (and every one of my colleagues agree with me), that it will be done as soon as it can be possibly achieved. (Applause.) It is very satisfactory to be able to state, that the few bad debts that we have are winding up much better than we could have expected—there are but very few now remaining; the accounts are nearly all wound up, and are in a much more satisfactory state than we could at one time have possibly contemplated. (Hear, hear.) Gentlemen, I will, if you will permit me, read you an extract from a return made to the House of Commons from the Board of Trade. In the first place, it is of the imports and exports from that colony

for the three years up to the end of January, 1854. I will not go through many of them, but I will give you two or three, for they are curious. The number of ships going from the ports of Great Britain to the colonies in the year ending in January, 1852, was 272, with a tonnage of 145,000. In the year 1853 the number of the ships was 568, with a tonnage of 335,000. In the year 1854 there were 1,201 ships, with a tonnage of 553,000. (Cheers.) There are one or two other points only upon which I would say a word. It was feared that the discovery of gold, and the population almost running wild to the gold fields, might, for a time at least, have put aside the common, and legitimate, and regular objects of the colony—namely, the growth of wool. I am happy to say that it has not so turned out, for, by the same return, the quantity of wool imported from the colonies into Great Britain in 1851 was 41,810,000 pounds, in the year 1852 it was 43,197,000 pounds, and in the last year it was 47,075,000 pounds; so that it has gone on gradually increasing instead of diminishing, as it was feared would be the case. (Applause.) There is another article which I cannot help mentioning, because it affords convincing proof of the prosperity of the colony. You are aware that formerly, in disastrous times, the colonists were obliged to boil down their sheep for the purpose of making tallow, and to remit the tallow to this country, there being nobody to consume the carcasses, and nobody who could afford to purchase them; so that that was the only way in which they were enabled to make a profit of their flocks. During the three years to which I have alluded, the import of tallow has been considerably diminished, proving to my mind satisfactorily that there is a much greater demand for the carcasses of the animals; and therefore, that which formerly was comparatively wasted by being boiled down and turned into tallow, now goes to preserve the constitution of the human frame. (Hear, hear.) There is one thing more to which I beg to call your attention, and that is, the official value of the exports from this country during the same three years. In the year 1851 the value was £2,807,000; in the year 1852 the official value was £4,222,000; and in the year 1853 it was £14,500,000; and yet, notwithstanding all that, our letters assure us that, though there is a pressure on the market, there is nothing to apprehend further than the failure of a few shop-keepers, who, if they can hold on steadily, will still be able to go on without difficulty, and that the banks have, up to that time, not sustained any difficulty whatever. (Hear.) Gentlemen, you will see by the report that we have opened several new branch banks: now of course we cannot expect an immediate return of large profits from those branches, because the outfit and so forth will of course swallow up at first more profit than we shall make; perhaps that may be the case for a year or two; but it is absolutely necessary that we should take up this position, inasmuch as the places at which they are established promise to become most important places in the colony; and it is also necessary for the protection of our much larger branches. We have not at present begun to build extensively, and for this simple reason, the price of labour is so enormous at the present period, that we have not thought it discreet to do so; we think it possible, however, that in a little while circumstances will enable us to erect our buildings more cheaply. While I am on the subject of building, I must observe that I hope that this will be the last annual meeting that you will be called to attend in this place. (Hear, hear.) We received a report from our architect a day or two ago, and he tells us that our house is proceeding to his entire satisfaction, and that he fully hopes and expects that it will be entirely completed before the end of the year, so that whoever shall be living at our meeting in next June, will, I hope, have to congratulate the proprietors on being more respectably situated than they are now. (Cheers.) Gentlemen, I know that I have omitted a great many things that I intended to have said to

you, although perhaps I have already trespassed too long upon your attention: I will, with the greatest pleasure, answer any questions that you may think it proper to put to me, or, if I cannot do so, some of my colleagues will; and, when I have done that, I shall move that the report be adopted. (Cheers.)

The report having been unanimously adopted, the re-election of directors was then agreed to, and the meeting concluded with special votes of thanks to the board and the officers of the establishment.

THE IONIAN BANK.

THE annual meeting of the shareholders of this bank took place on the 25th May, Mr. O. Farrer in the chair, when the following report was unanimously adopted:—

In presenting their annual report, the directors have little to add to the formal statement of profit and loss, for the year 1853. It is unfortunately matter of notoriety, that the currant blight renewed its ravages in the last season, to the almost entire destruction of the crops. The effect, of course, has been severely felt by the proprietors and cultivators, and the operations of the bank have been proportionally crippled. The evil, however, was in some degree compensated by a more abundant oil crop, and upon the whole, the year presents a fair average result of profitable business. Nothing has occurred to alter materially the estimate previously made of the losses attributable to the disastrous year of 1851; and notwithstanding the pressure upon the currant growing districts for the last two seasons, no further failures are reported from which ultimate loss is anticipated. The accounts exhibit, after the payment of two dividends at the rate of 5 per cent., an addition to the rest of over £1,600, a result which, under all the existing circumstances, may fairly be regarded as satisfactory. The statement is as follows:—

The balance at the credit of profit and loss, on the 1st January, 1853, was	£6,004 18 10
The net profit of the year, after deducting charges, and making further provision for doubtful debts, is	9,133 5 9
Together	£15,138 4 7
From which is to be deducted two half-yearly dividends at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum ..	7,500 0 0
Leaving	£7,638 4 7

To the credit of profit and loss on the 1st January, 1854.

LONDON CHARTERED BANK OF AUSTRALIA.

THE second meeting of the proprietors of this bank was held at the London Tavern on the 23rd of June, Mr. D. Dunbar in the chair, when the following report was unanimously adopted:—

“The directors have now the pleasure of presenting their second report to the shareholders, and, in doing so, are able to congratulate them on the position of the corporation, which, considering its recent formation, and the competition existing in the colonies, must be considered satisfactory. In the report submitted to the proprietors at the last annual meeting, on the 14th October, 1853, it was announced that the inspector, accompanied by the managers of the Melbourne and Sydney Branches, had arrived in Australia towards the latter end of April, and that, in consequence of the ener-

getic measures immediately taken by the inspector in forming local boards of highly influential gentlemen, the business had commenced, under favourable auspices at both places, on the 1st of July last. The directors have now to inform the proprietors that, in addition to the Melbourne and Sydney Branches, a third branch has been established in the rising town of Geelong, which was opened for business on the 15th November last. At this place a local board, consisting of gentlemen of high character and position, had also been organized. The latest advices from the company's establishments in Australia are to the 25th March last. The extension of the business of the bank in the colony of Victoria has exceeded the anticipations of the directors. The note-circulation in that province had reached £124,347. In New South Wales the progress, although considerable, has not been equal—a result your directors were prepared to expect, as in the older colony the field for banking operations is not only more restricted, but is more fully occupied by other long-established institutions. The prospects of the bank are encouraging, and there is every reason to expect that the corporation will participate in the general prosperity of the colony; but it must not be forgotten that a bank, as a mercantile undertaking, is subject to all those fluctuations from which commerce is never exempt; to make provision for which the directors consider it prudent that an adequate reserve be set aside, prior to the distribution of profits. On reference to the accounts submitted to the last meeting, it will be seen that the balance in favour of profit and loss of account, arising from operations in London to the 31st August last, amounted to £4,017 16s. 4d.; and by adding the net profit made here until the 31st December, 1853, and the net profit realized at Melbourne and Sydney, from the commencement of their business, 1st July, 1853, to same date, namely, £9,663 18s. 10d., there appears at the credit of profit and loss account, on 31st December, 1853, the sum of £13,681 15s. 2d. From this amount, the directors have deducted, in liquidation of the preliminary expenses, the sum of £1,403 9s. 11d., leaving, as the available balance, £12,278 5s. 3d.; and they now recommend the payment of a dividend of 2 per cent. on the capital paid up to 31st December last, and that there be carried to a reserve fund the sum of £1,000, leaving £3,778 5s. 3d. to be carried forward to the profit and loss account of the current half-year."

Liabilities.

Notes in circulation	£125,672	0	0
Bills payable, and other liabilities.....	183,017	8	3
Deposits	230,665	6	7
Total due to the public	£539,354	14	10
Capital called up	375,000	0	0
Balance of profit and loss, after defraying all current charges, to 31st December, 1853	£13,681	15	2
Deduct 7½ per cent. off £7,749 13s. 4d., preliminary expenses....	£581	4	4
25 per cent. off £3,289 2s. 6d., expenses of remitting capital to colonies	822	5	7
	1,403	9	11
	12,278	5	3
	£926,633	0	1

Assets.			
Coin and bullion	£235,197	0	0
Balances due by other banks ..	11,081	19	9
		£246,278	19 8
Bills receivable and other securities.....		633,895	11 7
Freehold, leasehold, and other property of the corporation			
		28,840	12 9
Open policies		3,237	5 7
Stamps		382	14 7
Preliminary expenses—			
Head-office	£2,775	4	4
Melbourne Branch.....	2,990	14	4
Sydney Branch	2,829	5	4
Geelong Branch.....	1,040	1	11
		9,635	5 11
Calls in arrear, and on shares reserved for colonies		4,362	10 0
		£926,633	0 1

The Chairman hoped the report just read would prove as satisfactory to the shareholders as it appeared to be to the board. He believed that it was a most unusual thing for the directors of a bank to be in a position to declare a dividend at so early a period after its establishment; but they felt they were justified in doing so, having *bonâ fide* realized a profit of about 3½ per cent. It might, at first sight, appear that it would have been more prudent for the directors to wait until their business was further developed, than to come before them so soon with a dividend of 2 per cent. The directors, however, felt they were fully justified in doing so; and the more especially as they were enabled not only to pay the dividend, but to propose to put aside £1,000 towards a reserve fund, to enable them, at some future time, to preserve their dividends when their position might not appear so prosperous at present. He believed that no bank had ever made more rapid progress in public estimation, as was evinced by the amount of their notes in circulation; and though they had met with a strong opposition from the Victoria Bank, established in the colony about the same time as their own, he believed that none would ultimately hold a better position.

The dividend of 2 per cent., payable on the 15th proximo, was then carried.

In reply to questions, the Chairman stated that the reserve would be invested in the funds, or some other equally good security on this side the water. The charges of the establishment might all be seen by the shareholders at the office, but he did not think it would be desirable to publish them. The allowance to the directors under the deed was £3,000 per annum, but up to the 1st of January, 1853, they declined receiving anything, and since that period they had only taken £1,800 per annum.

The proceedings concluded with votes of thanks to directors and officers.

Communications

To the Editor of the Bankers' Magazine.

NATIONAL BANK OF IRELAND.

SIR,—Your last number contained an account of the general annual meeting of the National Bank, of Ireland held on the 25th of May, but you

omitted that portion of the report comprising the general balance sheet of assets and liabilities. As the National Bank of Ireland now stands next to the Bank of Ireland as regards the circulation of the Irish banks, I consider that its annual balance sheet is a matter of interest, not only to bankers, but to the public. I am a very old subscriber to your magazine, and my chief inducement for being so is, that I may refer, when needful, to the record of bank meetings and reports, which it contains. I have watched with deep interest the growing importance of the joint-stock banks carrying on business in London, as shown in their annual reports and balance sheets; the information contained in the latter is of considerable statistical importance. If all the Irish banks published balance sheets like the National Bank, we should be able to draw our own inferences as to the progress made towards prosperity by Ireland; but looking to the great drain of deposits caused by the emigration of farmers of the better class, and others possessing means, I think we have no right to infer that because the National Bank of Ireland has increased its deposits and circulation about one million in two years, that is to say, nearly an increase of 60 per cent. in two years, that the other banks have increased in like ratio, or even that some may not now have smaller deposits than they had a couple of years back. I make these remarks on the grounds of general interest and importance, and from no feeling of partizanship towards the National Bank, with which I never had any connection whatsoever, either as a shareholder or customer; but I do contend, that as the National Bank of Ireland has now a circulation of about £1,100,000, being more than any other Bank in Great Britain or Ireland, with the exception only of the Bank of England and the Bank of Ireland, its balance sheet is worthy of insertion in the *Bankers' Magazine*.

I am, sir, your obedient servant,

Ireland, 16th June, 1854.

A CONSTANT READER.

[We append the figures requested by our correspondent, which were omitted from absence of space in our last number.]

National Bank of Ireland.

ASSETS.

Bullion, government stock, Exchequer bills, cash on hand and at bankers	£1,315,935	3	10
Bills discounted, loans and advances on current accounts.	1,926,276	0	8
Bank premises, London, Dublin, and branches. .	30,281	15	2
	<u>£3,272,492</u>	<u>19</u>	<u>8</u>

LIABILITIES.

Paid-up capital, London stock ..	£450,000	0	
Ditto local stock ..	21,197	10	
		<u>471,197</u>	<u>10 0</u>
Circulation		1,076,404	15 0
Due by the bank on deposit receipts, current accounts, &c.		1,700,010	2 7
Insurance fund		4,277	14 2
Reserve fund		20,602	17 11
		<u>£3,272,492</u>	<u>19 8</u>

THE BANK CHARTER ACT.

SIR.—In your publication for March you copied a letter from *The Times*, with their remarks upon it, since which the following has been sent to them, which they have not inserted; if you think it worthy, perhaps you can find space for it in your next.

I am, sir, yours,

1st May, 1854.

A SUBSCRIBER.

[COPY.]

To the Editor of The Times.

SIR.—In your remarks upon my letter inserted in your valuable paper of the 10th ult., you state, that if I believe there will be any alteration affecting the principle of the Banking Act of 1844, I am as much doomed to disappointment as if I were waiting to see a revival of protection. I simply say, that being a free-trader, I have no wish to see a revival of protection, but, on the contrary, I would wish to see an extension of that principle to the banking community; and not give free-trade to one and withhold it from another, as is now the case, but which I believe will not much longer exist, as, from remarks I hear on all sides, public opinion is awakening to the subject; and as in times of difficulty it affects the public to a greater extent than the bankers, their interest in the subject will increase.

That nine years' experience has left no ground of opposition, I cannot agree with; that it was suspended in time of difficulty, is now a matter of history. I will not prophesy how it will be dealt with if our war with Russia should be of long duration. The immediate effects of its suspension in 1847 are well known, and I think illustrate the idea that it is only a scarcity of circulation, and not of capital; the "other deposits" at that time in the Bank being at a fair average amount. Had the Bank of England at that time been the only issuing body, the effects would have been more disastrous through the country. The private and joint-stock banks did all they could to ease the public; their circulation being then, in October and November, 1847, larger than it has ever been since. I fully remember the feelings of delight given me (and I have no doubt other bankers also) by the Government letter to the Bank of England, as it enabled me to meet the demands of my customers with much greater liberality than I had been compelled to use (having had to refuse discount to parties who I was well aware possessed property sufficient to pay 100s. in the £), and assured me I could obtain a fair amount of bank notes, which, for some time, I had been compelled to hoard, not knowing, if I parted with what I had, how to procure a fresh supply. Bankers generally being compelled to strengthen themselves, accounts for the increase from the 9th October to 6th November, of £2,000,000 in the Bank circulation, it having, on the latter day, amounted to £21,152,000; the Government letter having done its work, the circulation fell to £18,789,000, by the 1st January following.

I was among the party that did not think the sole imperfection of Sir Robert Peel's measure "consisted in not extinguishing the circulation of private establishments altogether;" nevertheless, I would agree with that, if the country could be supplied with a better circulation than it now possesses; but I should not like to be compelled to use none but Bank of England notes, which at one time the Bank would supply me with to any reasonable extent, and induce me to take more by charging only 2 per cent., and then, perhaps within a few months, not only reduce the amount, but increase their charge from 2 to 5, or even 8 per cent., and that whilst their notes or gold were the only legal tender. I do not find fault with the bank (for few institutions are better conducted), it is the restrictions with which they are surrounded. I would not object to Government paper, or even some of Mr. Gladstone's Exchequer bonds, made legal tender, and convenient for negotiation.

I still retain the idea that we now require a considerable increase in the circulation over what we had this time last year; the rise in prices of home commodities, which have but little to do with either exports or imports, requires an increase; if in 1844 we required a certain circulation, in 1854, with an increase of over $12\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. in the population, and even a greater increase in wealth and commerce, we must require a corresponding increase in circulation.

With regard to Scotland, looking at the returns, I cannot come to the conclusion that the circulation has not been intrinsically larger. We all well know the Scotch prefer paper to gold, but the idea of there being now a much smaller amount of gold in circulation than formerly, I cannot entertain. In ten years the increase in population has been from 2,620,184 to 2,888,742, a little over 10 per cent., or $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. less increase than in England. The following are the returns of the note circulation:—

Fixed authorised circulation, £3,087,209.

ACTUAL CIRCULATION, MONTHS ENDING—

1845, Jan. 4 ..	£3,159,450	—	1845, March 29 ..	£2,950,870
1846, „ 3 ..	3,336,409	—	1846, „ 28 ..	3,018,771
1847, „ 2 ..	3,787,151	—	1847, „ 27 ..	3,360,348
1848, „ 1 ..	3,341,317	—	1848, „ 25 ..	2,951,937
„ Dec. 30 ..	3,276,826	—	1849, „ 24 ..	2,935,120
1849, „ 29 ..	3,242,448	—	1850, „ 23 ..	2,993,621
1850, „ 28 ..	3,345,649	—	1851, „ 22 ..	3,033,235
1851, „ 27 ..	3,356,974	—	1852, „ 20 ..	3,081,769
1852, „ 25 ..	3,764,064	—	1853, „ 19 ..	3,443,894
1853, „ 24 ..	4,112,787	—	1854, „ 18 ..	3,844,363
10)34,723,075			10)31,613,928	

Average for 10

years, in Dec. 3, 3,472,307 In March 3,161,392

Average variation in 3 months 310,915

With respect to Ireland, it may be argued that, from peculiar circumstances, no useful statistics can be formed, the difference in its circulation having been very large.

The authorised amount is	£6,354,494
In December, 1846 it was	7,839,540
„ September, 1849	3,811,445
„ October, 1850	4,494,459
„ October, 1852	5,546,172
„ January, 1854	6,539,729

From the above we perceive the Scotch circulation since its limit was fixed has been £2,935,120 and £4,112,787, showing a difference of more than 40 per cent. at one time over another. The Irish show more than cent. per cent. difference. In both countries the value of money has been much more equable, and they have been much freer from panics and severe monetary pressure than England, in the face of which we hear some people say the same amount of paper currency ought to be kept in circulation at all times, and that if the Bank of England cannot keep it up, it must lower the charges to induce people to take it, but which does not seem to answer, as persons who have idle money will lend it at a still smaller charge than the bank, in order to get something.

I quite agree that there is no reason to believe that the sum which was adopted in 1844 was at all too high, since which time there has been a reduction

by failures of £175,778, by withdrawals, £530,609; together, £706,387. The fixed amounts were taken from the actual circulation of 12 weeks preceding the 27th April, 1844; the effect of the present law is to keep the country circulation considerably below that amount, for no bank can keep up to the exact amount, and it often happens there is a great demand for local circulation at certain times, which demand ceases perhaps in a few weeks, the English banker not being allowed to exceed for one month, cannot supply that demand; therefore, when the tide turns, his circulation falls under the limit to a considerable extent. We see from the above returns the circulation of Scotland at certain times falls in three months about 10 per cent., and there they possess an advantage over the English banker, by the same bank having branches all through the country, as it frequently happens when one district requires a larger circulation than usual, another requires less.

The law now allows any amount of credit customers like to give, but it says it shall not exist in the most convenient form; to-day I have had several customers with gold, checks, and notes, requesting my own notes in exchange: I was compelled to say I cannot give you notes, I will give you a receipt payable on demand, or you may give checks upon me for any amount you may require, and this exists whilst it is proposed to facilitate the circulation of small bills of exchange, by reducing the stamps respecting which the Chancellor of the Exchequer remarks:—"I have no doubt that the effect of this law will be to throw a good deal of capital into action in this form, which hitherto has been dormant." I would ask, is it more expedient to encourage the circulation of small bills of exchange, than country bank notes? such bills of exchange having always been the foundation of a considerable amount of the local notes. When my note circulation is exhausted, my customers readily take receipts or check-books, and thus the revenue loses what I should otherwise have paid as stamp duty on notes issued. Is this our boasted free trade? If so, we must not be surprised if the next step should be to ascertain the number of stamps issued to the different newspapers, and then enact that no new paper shall be established, and the existing ones shall only issue to the number so ascertained.

In 1845 a few country banks, when their amounts were all out, drew drafts (under the Bank Composition Stamp Act) to order, resembling their notes, and paid them away as such. There was something like an intimation given that if it was continued, Government would put a stop to it, and perhaps add further restrictions; and yet the Bank of England draws £10 post bills (something like notes) and when endorsed by the payee circulate as such; and I have this week seen several revivals of such country drafts for both £5 and £10, some drawn under the Composition Act, and some on 1d. stamps under the act of last year.

I did not give any reasons, in my former letter, for stating the Act of 1844 amounted almost to giving the present banking companies a monopoly, by its preventing the formation of new ones; and the argument "that few are now created, is to be attributed to the disastrous recollections of 1837, and to the law of liability," may be met by stating that between that year and 1844 (six years) there were thirteen new banking companies formed, since 1844 (nine years) only three. It would be tedious to go through the act, so I will give only a few of the difficulties.

1st. The expense—I cannot say what is the lowest amount for which a company might obtain its charter, or what its preliminary expenses must be; of the three established under the act, I have by me the returns of only one, the paid-up capital being £50,000, the preliminary expenses £14,997; another being formed by the union of several private banks, and the shares (only 100 in number) being taken up privately, the expense would not be so great, and there were peculiar circumstances connected with the formation of the third.

2nd. The petition for charter must set forth, among other things, the amount of capital stock at not less than £100,000, and shares of not less than £100 each, of which £50 per share, or £50,000 at least, must be paid up before commencing business. Upwards of two-thirds of our present banking companies commenced with a less paid-up capital, and about one-third of them now possess less, and only two or three have £50 more per share paid up. Most of the banking companies that have suspended payment, had much larger paid-up capitals.

3rd. One-fourth of the directors must retire yearly, and not be eligible for re-election for twelve months: thus it must often happen that the most useful directors, and those who know their business best, are turned out of office.

4th. The monthly publication of assets and liabilities, whereby a neighbour may discover the most profitable part of the business, and act so as to reduce that profit or obtain a part of it for himself; any mercantile man will soon see many objections to such a publication. In such a place as London, it may, perhaps, not be so objectionable as in smaller towns, where there are only two or three banks.

5th. The yearly balance sheet—for similar reasons as the 4th.

6th. That no company shall commence business till the deed is executed by all the shares subscribed for, and at least half the amount paid up. It often happens after all the shares have been allotted, that from death, or other causes, the parties cannot sign the deed, it is then rendered necessary to re-allot the shares, which at least causes great delay, and most people know the effect of such delays.

It is well known there are many difficulties to be overcome in the formation of a new company, caused by existing interests, &c. It may be argued the above and others are not insurmountable difficulties, which is quite true; but I would ask, are they not practical prohibitions? which I think is in part answered by the establishment of so few new companies, and a greater argument still is, that I know of three cases where the restrictions have altogether prevented the formation of new companies, and not the want of influential and leading men willing to join them.

I think it possible some may meet me by stating, I, being a banker, am an interested party. Perhaps it may appear so: that feeling has prevented me writing before, as I know it has other bankers; but believing the matter must soon come under discussion, I have brought forward a few things thrown before me in everyday dealings, which may be useful to persons who have not the same opportunities of seeing the working as myself. I have, so far as practicable, abstained from theoretical opinions, and given mere experience, from which the public may draw their own deductions, whether it affects them or the bankers most.

In conclusion, I would make one suggestion (even supposing it desirable to continue the present enactments), viz., that the Bank of England not having made use of their privilege to require an increase for the £700,000 withdrawn, the amount should be allotted to some of the existing banks who would make use of it.

Begging insertion for this, and enclosing my card,

I am, sir, your subscriber,

13th March, 1854.

A. B.

Since the above was sent to *The Times* (who did not insert it), that journal, in stating the exact amount of diminution in local notes to be £696,325, concludes by advising that measures shall be adopted to supply the deficiency.

How the conclusion is however arrived at, that an order for increase would now be tantamount to an advance to the Government of £464,217, free of interest, I cannot conceive; it would certainly give the Bank of England an available increase, but, long before their reserve of notes was reduced to that amount,

the act as it now stands must be suspended or repealed. At its suspension by Government in 1847, the bank held notes in reserve for more than three times that amount.

The total amount of local notes authorised in 1844 was £8,648,853. If they were all withdrawn to-day, the Bank of England, by an order in council, might increase its issues by £5,765,902, the profit on the increase to go to the public, but the bank's reserve in notes being now at a greater amount than that, the increase would not in fact be in use, therefore no profit could accrue to the public until it was used, but, on the other hand, there would be a loss of about £25,000 per annum, which is now paid for stamp duty.

3rd April, 1854.

FORM OF GUARANTEE.

SIR.—Can you give a form for a guarantee to be taken by a banker from a person who offers himself as security for an account current and for bills discounted?

Thus—A. B. calls at the bank, and says that he will be guarantee for the account of C. D., and for bills that the bank may discount to the extent of £——.

As A. B.'s guarantee is to be executed at once, how should it be worded?

I have no doubt you can give a simple form, and in few words. I applied to my "Professional"—his document is so lengthy, it would frighten most men.

Your most obedient servant,

AN OLD SUBSCRIBER.

20th June, 1854.

FORM.

[To the Bank.

In consideration of your advancing money by discount of bills, payment of cheques, or otherwise, to A. B., I guarantee you the payment of all such advances to the extent of £——. This guarantee to be a continuing security, and to be available for the persons for the time being constituting the bank.

Yours, &c.,

C. D.]

Stamp, 2s. 6d.

MEANING OF THE TERM "MONTH."

SIR,—When one month is longer than the succeeding one, it is said to be *a rule not to go*, in the computation, into a third month; thus, on a bill dated the 28th, 29th, 30th, or 31st January, and payable one month after date, the time expires on the 28th of February, in common years, and in the three latter cases in leap year, on the 29th; consequently, at all the dates mentioned, the maturity of the bill would be the 3rd of March, except in the first-mentioned date, viz., 28th January, and payable in leap year, the bill would be due 2nd of March.

Yours, &c.,

J. O.

2nd June, 1854, Bank, Kidderminster.

SIR,—If the information is of any service to your correspondent, H. J., I would observe that in the different establishments with which I have been connected, it has always been the practice to regard the months of the year in respect to bills without considering the number of days each month contains.

As you justly observe, the term "Month" is deprived of all meaning by your correspondent. Suppose a bill drawn on 31st August for one month,

would H. J. consider that it became due on 4th October? It appears to me inconsistent.

I know of men of twenty years' banking experience who occasionally broach more extraordinary professional doctrines than that alluded to by your correspondent; but it must be borne in mind that these gentlemen have had their experience in some such retired spot as Melksham, and who have obtained a character for honesty, sobriety, and regularity, rather than for any commercial shrewdness or professional ability.

I am, sir, your obedient servant,

12th June, 1854.

A SUBSCRIBER.

SIR,—H. J., who writes in your June number, may be assured that it is both the law of bills and the practice among bankers, that where a bill is drawn on 31st January, at one month's date, the same becomes due and is payable on 3rd March. How else would H. J. or his friends propose to compute the month? Would they equalize the months—making each thirty days and a half (which could only be done in leap year after all), or what?

A bill drawn at a currency of six weeks' date is due in forty-five days, (a week being invariably seven days); but when drawn at a month's date, the computation of a bill's maturity is not expressed by days—the meaning being clearly a CALENDAR month, with the addition, of course, of the days of grace.

I am, sir, your obedient servant,

OLD STAGER.

Northumberland, 8th June, 1854.

INCOME TAX.

SIR,—The Chancellor of the Exchequer having found it necessary to prolong the duration of the increased income tax, which, with the high price of provisions, presses tightly on parties with only small salaries, I would beg, through the medium of your columns, to suggest to bank directors that they would be conferring a very great boon on their clerks were they to pay their tax for them, as in almost every case they do for their shareholders. I believe this subject merely requires to be brought before their notice to insure its favourable consideration, as the addition to the cost of management would be almost nominal, and to the great bulk of young clerks who, like myself, luxuriate on an income which just brings them within the tax, the benevolence would be most seasonable. I apologise for thus intruding, and

I remain sir, your most obedient servant,

A CLERK AT £100 PER ANNUM.

Birmingham, 17th May, 1854.

Notes of the Month, FINANCIAL AND COMMERCIAL.

INDISPUTABLE ASSURANCE COMPANY.—In the year embraced in the accounts lately presented, the progress of the company has been greater than in any previous year:—513 proposals have been received, for the assurance of £178,820 5s., of which 386 have been accepted and completed, assuring £123,245 2s., and yielding, in annual premiums, the sum of £4,570 9s. 6d. The claims amounted only to £2,200, making a total from the commencement

of the company of £8,711 14s., being much below what the calculated expectancy would have warranted the directors to anticipate. The number of policies since the establishment of the company up to the 1st June has been 2,176, and the total sum assured £650,293 14s. 6d.

GOLD EXPORTS FROM PORT PHILIP.—The quantity of gold exported from Port Philip from October, 1st, 1851, the period of the first discovery, to December 31st, 1853, inclusive, is as follows:—Exported by sea, in 1851, 145,128 ozs. 14 dwts. 16 grs.; ditto, by sea, in 1852, 1,974,971 ozs. 15 dwts. 1 gr., and ditto, overland to South Australia, 230,074 ozs. 10 dwts.; exported in 1853, by sea, 2,497,723 ozs. 15 dwts. 6 grs.; overland to South Australia, 109,093 ozs. 5 dwts.; and to New South Wales, 82,348 ozs. 14 dwts.—Total exports, 5,041,344 ozs. 14 dwts. 9 grs., or in value nearly £20,000,000.

ATTEMPTED BANK ROBBERY.—Charles Roberts, aged 26, the party indicted for stealing a check for £31,107, and Bank of England notes of the value of £2,710, the property of Messrs. Barnett and Co., has been tried at the Central Criminal Court, and sentenced to ten years' penal servitude.

THE TIMES LIFE ASSURANCE.—The report of the directors states that 2,102 policies have been completed; that is, paid upon and issued since the last meeting, and that the annual income therefrom amounts to £7,504 0s. 1d. The total number of policies completed and issued during the four preceding years, and the annual income therefrom, is as follows: viz.—Policies issued up to June, 1853, 3,199, annual income £15,528 1s. 11d.; policies issued from June, 1853, to June, 1854, 2,102, annual income £7,504 0s. 1d.; total annual income £23,086 2s. By reference to the foregoing figures it will be seen that in five years the company has issued 5,301 policies, yielding an annual income of £23,086 2s. During the past year the directors have declined an unusually large amount of business—viz., number of policies 370, aggregate amount £92,965, annual income £2,168 13s. 10d. This amount is more than double the amount declined by the directors during the previous year. The total amount paid upon claims during the year is shown by the following figures—viz., life, £1,250; guarantee, £1,264 0s. 9d.; total, £2,514 0s. 9d. The directors abstain from offering any remarks upon the small amount paid for claims, not only in the current year, but from the commencement of the company, for the reason that the valuation of the company's business has been commenced, and the report which will be made upon the completion of this labour, will contain all the remarks and information which are necessary for each shareholder to form an exact idea of the value of his investment in this undertaking. The directors recommend that interest at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum be paid upon the paid-up capital of the company.

FIDELITY GUARANTEE ASSURANCE.—The following is an extract from *Chambers' Journal*, illustrating the improved principle adopted by the United Guarantee and Life Assurance Company:—"In conducting life assurance business it is always important to hold out the prospect of additions or bonuses from accumulating surplus of funds, as it feeds hope, and thus proves an inducement to the virtuous act of insuring upon life. In the cognate business of probate assurance or public guarantee, it is, we understand, felt as a discouragement, that the annual premiums are wholly, as it were, lost money. A clerk who may have paid £5 a year to guarantee his intromissions to his employers to the amount of £1,000, feels at the end of fifteen years that he is minus not much less, perhaps, than a year's income, with nothing to show

for it. On this account the security of friends and relatives is still clung to by many in preference, though there can be no doubt that it is a great hardship to individuals to be subjected to such risk, when a public company can satisfy the needs of the case equally well. To obviate this objection Mr. James Knight has suggested and advocated a plan for absorbing guarantee in a connection with life assurance; and a company of respectable means, and under excellent auspices, has been started for carrying the idea into effect. As an original conception, aiming at a social improvement, we deem it worthy of notice. For a sum just about the same as that commonly exacted in many old life assurance offices, £500 will be insured upon the life, and half that sum as guarantee for fidelity in trust—this for the first five years, after which a lower sum is demanded, being that solely required for the life policy, it being considered that the value of the life policy is then sufficient for the guarantee, the more particularly as it is covenanted that, in the event of infidelity to trust, the life policy is forfeited. At the same time, the holder of the policy, if he remains so a sufficient time, becomes entitled to share in the “profits”—that is, surplusages—of the concern. Seeing that the taking of a life assurance policy is in itself so laudable and proper a step for nearly all sorts of persons, the effecting of guarantee, with that in addition, can only be considered as so much the better, even without regard to any special advantages in the point of economy, or in any other respect. When these disadvantages, however, are also held in view, we think there can be little doubt that Mr. Knight has done a valuable service to the public in suggesting and realising the plan.”

JOINT AND SEPARATE STOCK ACCOUNTS AT THE BANK.—Mr. T. Weguelin, the Deputy Governor of the Bank, says in his evidence before the Lords' Committee on the South Sea Company's Trust bill:—"The Bank of England does not acknowledge trusts, but he supposes that one-half of the accounts of the public are joint accounts, which presumably are for the most part trust accounts. The total capital is 709 millions, of which the sole accounts are 150,000, and joint accounts 117,000. The joint accounts deal with a capital of 428 millions sterling, or four-sevenths of the whole debt."

EXTENSION OF THE BANKRUPTCY SYSTEM.—Lord Brougham mentioned recently in the House of Lords some curious facts, if true, relative to the old and new systems of bankruptcy. He said it would excite the greatest surprise among mercantile men in Scotland if they were to hear that the Convention of Royal Burghs—though a highly respectable body in themselves—was a body in any sense of the word representing the mercantile community of that country. He might perhaps be pardoned for mentioning that in Scotland the bankruptcy law had always proceeded upon the principle of allowing the creditors themselves, as alone interested in the matter, to have the whole management and conduct of each bankruptcy. So it was in England until the act, to which he had the good fortune to obtain the sanction of Parliament in 1831. Up to that time the whole management of bankruptcies in this country was in the hands of the creditors, subject however to a certain control, without which the grossest abuses would have prevailed, much more to the injury of the creditor than that of the bankrupt. The petitioners in this case would do well to reflect upon the effect which the almost uncontrolled management of bankruptcies by creditors exerted. In England no sooner was the new system of 1831 put in force, and the new assignees substituted for the trade assignees, than between £2,000,000 and £3,000,000 were in a very short space of time collected and distributed among the creditors, which sum had remained, under the old system, in the hands of the bankers, owing to the supineness of the assignees—that is, the supineness of

the creditors themselves in the management of their own affairs. Such a system tended, of course, to the great advantage of the bankers, and to great loss on the part of the creditors. He remembered that one of the members of a banking house in London stated that his house alone would lose between £6,000 and £7,000 a year by the introduction of the new system, they deriving that amount from the large sum neglected by the creditors, by the trade assignees, and allowed to fructify in their hands. Many bankruptcies had been superseded when the new procedure came to be adopted in this country, it being found that under it the estates would pay 20s. in the pound.

Reviews.

MISCELLANEOUS SERIALS AND PAMPHLETS.—We are so constantly inundated with serials and small pamphlets that it is impossible that we can notice them at length. The *Journals of the Statistical Society* demand an attentive perusal, because they at all times present a mass of well-digested and interesting information. Another work deserving commendatory remark, is the *Irish Monthly Journal of Industrial Progress*. Among general publications of utility may be mentioned—*Darton's Statistical Tables for the Half Century*; *Suggestions for the removal of the Impediments to the Manufacturing Prosperity of Dublin*; *The Crown, the Rightful Depositary of Monetary Credit*; *Financial Difficulties, considered by Mr. H. Stansfeld*; *Decimal Coinage, by One of the Million*; *The Advantages of Savings Banks*; and *Pantomime Budgets*. The last is a singular brochure, and the quaint conceits of the author, although not always felicitously expressed, contain deep meaning.

BANK MOVEMENTS.

THE Brazilian Bank of issue commenced business on the 10th of April, and the operations have already been considerable. We publish elsewhere the first monthly account, as furnished by the President, in accordance with the terms of the law regulating the establishment.

At a meeting of the Shareholders of the London Joint-Stock Bank, held on the 15th of June, Mr. J. J. Silva, of the firm of Bruno, Silva and Sons, was elected a director in the place of Mr. S. Scholefield, deceased.

THE dividend declared by the Hibernian Bank on the 5th of June, was at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum (free of income tax) on the paid-up capital.

The Master in Chancery charged with the winding up of the "Borough of St. Marylebone Joint Stock Banking Company," proposes to make a call of £1 10s. per share on all the contributaries,

The directors of the English, Scottish, and Australian Chartered Bank have made a call of £2 per share payable by the 7th July.

The directors of the Bank of France have declared a dividend of 112f. for the six months of 1854, ending on the 1st of July.

Monetary Intelligence.

REVIEW OF THE MONEY MARKET FOR THE MONTH ENDING JUNE, 1854.

THE financial events of June have been principally associated with the negotiation of foreign loans; but since they have not been taken in this market, there has at present been no increase of pressure to disturb the general rates for accommodation. It was to have been anticipated that these operations would be necessary, the enormous expenditure to which the whole of the European powers have been compelled to resort rendering it impossible to provide the means from ordinary resources. Although political affairs, especially those connected with the Eastern question, have latterly assumed a much more favourable appearance—the defeat of the Russians at Silistria and the evacuation of the Principalities being the most important movements which have transpired—the permanent arrangement of peace will yet greatly depend upon the vigour of the measures adopted by the Western powers. Of the universal confidence in the result, no greater proof can be required than the position of the public funds and the healthy state of trade, although of course prejudicial fluctuations have been occasionally experienced. The Chancellor of the Exchequer is gradually supplying his wants through the issue of Exchequer bonds, and the second series have been taken at a price to pay 4 per cent. Within the last fortnight there has been greater ease in the general money market; and the bank returns exhibiting a steady improvement, less apprehension prevails with respect to the future. Remittances continue to come forward from Australia and America, and in larger amounts than formerly. The value of money in Lombard-street ranges from $5\frac{1}{4}$ to $5\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., with an active demand, and the allowance by the bankers is still $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. for deposits at call.

A rise of $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. in Consols within the last month, is the principal feature for comment in connexion with stock operations. This was brought about in the first instance by the alarm of the Bears at the anomalous position in which they were placed, and in the second, by the more inspiring nature of the intelligence from the East. The arrangement of the account facilitated the upward movement; and although there have since been fluctuations, no permanent reaction has set in. Supported by the latest news from the seat of war, and the prospect that the Czar is thoroughly defeated in his designs, the quotations appear likely to continue stable. Exchequer bills have varied very little, the bonds are about $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ premium.

The amount of Exchequer bills which the Chancellor was called upon to pay when the period expired for the renewal in June, was £550,000, of which it is stated £400,000 was presented by one firm.

The issue of the $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. bonds for £1,000,000, by the East India Railway Company, to proceed with their works, is to take place on the following terms:—they will be for £100 and upwards, with interest guaranteed by the East India Company, whose signature they will also bear, and they will be for periods of three or five years, at the option of the applicants, during which periods holders will have the privilege of converting them at any time into shares. The whole amount, it is understood, has been subscribed.

Amongst the latest rumours circulated, is the probable negotiation of a Turkish loan for £3,000,000, Messrs. Rothschild and Co. being mentioned as the capitalists through whom the contract will be concluded.

The settlement of the Consol account on the 6th of June was attended by numerous failures. At least half a dozen took place, but they were individually for small amounts. One party, however, whose liabilities through the

default of principals reached £10,000, was enabled in the course of a few days to pay 20s. in the pound. On the French Bourse on the same occasion there were about twenty-five suspensions, the aggregate amount of differences being nearly £100,000.

The operations in foreign stocks have been comparatively insignificant. Russian has declined, through the negotiation of a loan; apprehensions being entertained that the finances of that country are in a very doubtful condition. The fall is about 5 per cent., but at present quotations steadiness is manifested. Peruvian has advanced on an announcement that an augmented funding is to be brought into operation. The committee appointed to superintend the interests of the bondholders have issued a report, in which they discuss the attempted introduction of the converted domestic debt into the Stock Exchange; and expose the endeavour made by the Peruvian Government to evade the contract originally entered into. The Spanish American committee require £1,500 to provide for the return of Mr. Mocetta to Quito, to conclude negotiations for the arrangement of the Ecuadorian debt. No great change has occurred in Mexican, and the remittances on dividend account have been limited.

There has been great activity in railway shares, and a considerable amount of business has taken place. The improvement in prices has been rapid, and ranges on the average from £5 to £7 per share. Stimulated by the great alteration in the appearance of the funds, and by the continuous increase of the total traffic, the public have purchased freely, and few reactionary sales having been attempted, the advance has been well sustained.

The shares of the joint-stock banks exhibit much firmness, and in some cases a further rise is noticeable. Land securities also present steadiness, but mining adventures, owing to the explanations rendered of organisation and management, have sunk to a fearful discount. Most of those connected with Australia and California will have to wind up.

In the produce markets there has been continued heaviness, unrelieved by any temporary briskness.

ENGLISH FUNDS.

		Price on May 30.	Highest.	Lowest.	Price on June 27.
Consols	..	90½ to 90½	94½	90½	93½ to 94
Exchequer bills' average	..	3s. pm. 4s. dis.	5s. pm.	4s. dis.	2s. d. to 2s. p.

FOREIGN STOCKS.

Brazilian	..	99½	101	99	99½
Buenos Ayres	..	54½	56½	54½	55
Chilian	..	103	103	102½	102
Dutch	..	60½	61½	60	61½
Mexican	..	24½	24½	23½	24
Peruvian, 4½ per cent.	..	65	69	65	67
Portuguese, 4 per cent.	..	40	42	40	41
Russian	..	96½	101	96½	97½
Spanish	..	39½	41½	39½	40½

RAILWAY SHARES.

Brighton	..	102½	105½	101½	104
Caledonian	..	57	63½	56	63½
Eastern Counties	..	12½	13½	12½	13½
Great Northern	..	88½	92½	88	91
Great Western	..	75½	81	74½	79½
London and North Western	..	98½	104½	97½	104½
Midland	..	60½	66½	59½	66½
Lancashire and Yorkshire ..	..	62	66½	61½	65½

		Price on May 30.	Highest.	Lowest.	Price on June 27.
North Staffordshire ..	..	13½	14½	13	13½
South Eastern	..	62½	65½	61½	65
South Western	..	78½	86	78½	85
York, Newcastle and Berwick		67	73	66½	72
York and North Midland ..		48½	53	47½	53
Northern of France ..	..	33½	35	32½	34½
East Indian	..	21½	22½	21½	22½

STATE OF TRADE.

THERE has been some depression in the manufacturing districts which the uncertainties connected with the war have not tended to mitigate. Although a fair amount of business has been transacted, the position of credit in some places is far from satisfactory. Several failures have taken place at Bradford, and other towns have not been exempt from similar casualties. A considerable diminution has taken place in the exports to Australia, and the last arrivals report discouragingly of the general position of those markets.

THE CORN TRADE.

THE *Gazette* returns for England and Wales have been—

Week ended 1854.	Wheat. Qrs. sold.	Weekly Average. s. d.	Six Weeks' Average. s. d.	Duty. s. d.	Corresponding Six Weeks Last Year. s. d.
May 27.....	65,791 ..	78 9 ..	79 2 ..	1 0 ..	44 3
June 3.....	66,083 ..	79 11 ..	79 2 ..	1 0 ..	44 1
„ 10.....	51,182 ..	78 9 ..	79 0 ..	1 0 ..	44 0
„ 17.....	47,780 ..	78 3 ..	78 9 ..	1 0 ..	44 1

The importations since the harvest of 1853 have been :—

	Wheat. Qrs.	Other Grain. Qrs.	Total. Qrs.
Forty-three weeks ended 17th May	4,877,790	3,061,191	7,938,981
Four weeks ended 14th June	405,896	310,239	716,135
	5,283,686	3,371,430	8,655,116

And the *weekly averages* have been—

Forty-three weeks ended 17th May	113,000	71,000	184,000
Four weeks ended 14th June	102,000	77,000	179,000

Less 11,000 More 6,000 Less 5,000

THE grain trade has been generally in a quiescent state. The tendency at the latest moment has been towards decline, but quotations, considering the favourable accounts of the prospects of the harvest, have been amazingly well maintained. The supplies of English wheat have, during the month, been extremely moderate, and those alone from America and the Mediterranean have provided for the requirements of the millers, &c. With a continuance of seasonable weather, it is fully anticipated that we shall secure satisfactory crops; and if France and Germany also succeed in obtaining sufficient home supplies, lower rates must ultimately prevail. It is, however, yet somewhat early to make accurate calculations, but the anticipations are generally encouraging. With regard to hay, there have been various estimates, and the majority side with a satisfactory return.

EAST INDIA REMITTANCES.

AMOUNT OF BILLS DRAWN FOR.

From the 24th of May to the 7th of	{	Bengal	£161,942	17	8
		Madras	10,092	1	8
June	{	Bombay	1,499	1	2
From the 8th of June to the 23rd of	{	Bengal	38,479	3	6
		Madras	18,118	17	1
June	{	Bombay	2,700	0	0
			£232,532	1	1

MONTHLY CHRONOLOGY.

- May 29.—Intelligence received of the bombardment of Hangoe.
 30.—Occupation of Greece by the allied armies.
 June 2.—The Austrian summons to Russia despatched.
 4.—An English Minister of War appointed; the Duke of Newcastle taking the office, and Sir G. Grey entering the Ministry as Colonial Secretary.
 5.—Failure of Messrs. J. and J. Hall, of Nottingham, announced.
 7.—The London joint-stock banks admitted to the privileges of the Clearing House. Three failures on the Stock Exchange declared.
 12.—Suspension of Mr. Goddard, of Birmingham. The affairs of Messrs. Newstead and Barnett, of the same place, under investigation.
 14.—The English squadron off Brahstab in Finland, seize a number of Russian gun boats and merchant vessels, and destroy property valued at between 300,000 to 400,000 silver roubles.
 16.—Failure of Mr. Julius Steding, of Moscow, announced. Blockade of the Baltic coast of Russia announced in the *London Gazette*.
 18.—Suspension of Messrs. Thomas Taylor and Sons, and other houses in the worsted trade at Bradford.
 19.—Proposal for a Russian loan of 50,000,000 silver roubles, introduced at St. Petersburg and Amsterdam. East India Company require £1,000,000, for which they offer $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. bonds. Tenders for loans for British Guiana and Trinidad, for £50,000 and £25,000 respectively, accepted by the Treasury.
 20.—Failure of Messrs. Davidson and Gordon, colonial brokers. The second issue of £2,000,000 Exchequer bonds, arranged between Government and Messrs. Rothschild, and others. A new Prussian loan for £2,350,000 in a $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. stock opened at Berlin. A new Belgian loan for £1,100,000 in a $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. stock arranged at Brussels. Retreat of the Russians from Silistria with great loss, and commencement of the evacuation of the Principalities.
 25.—Russian reply to the Austria summons, to the effect, that, as a mark of high consideration for Austria, Russia consents to evacuate the Turkish territories.

NOTICES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

- Our space is again largely occupied with the reports of bank meetings, the whole of which are important and interesting. We are, however, unfortunately compelled to postpone that of the South Australian Banking Company until next month, owing to the advanced period at which the shareholders were called together. It may be nevertheless mentioned that the proceedings were highly satisfactory, the dividend declared being at the rate of 14 per cent. Several general communications and reviews must for the present be deferred.
- All communications, except they involve important questions, should be sent at the latest by the 20th of the month.
- R. S. (Stafford).—Arrangements are in progress to effect the desired object. The statistics will always be found useful, and can be condensed in a few lines.
- A SUBSCRIBER.—All reports of Insurance Companies will be thankfully received, as it is our intention to notice the progress of these establishments from time to time.
- INVESTIGATOR.—The proceedings against the Chartered Bank of India, Australia, and China have not yet terminated. When they do, the result will be included in our Legal Miscellany.

FIRE INSURANCE.

A STATEMENT has just been published of the amount of stamp duties paid during the past year by each of the fire insurance companies of the United Kingdom. From a condensation of this document, it appears that the proportions paid by the London offices stand in the order subjoined:—

Duty Paid by the London Fire Insurance Offices during the year 1853.

	£		£
Sun	185,474	Defender	7,543
Phoenix	122,061	Unity	5,097
Royal Exchange	75,592	Anchor	4,333
County	57,006	Church of England	4,013
Imperial	47,285	British Empire	3,350
Alliance	44,141	Equitable	2,093
Atlas	36,754	Times	1,099
Globe	35,233	National Provincial	745
Guardian	31,594	National Guardian	424
Union	25,850	London and County	380
Westminster	25,487	Cambrian and Universal	225
Law	25,019	Beacon	155
London	24,985	Athenæum	150
Monarch	12,673	Protestant	148
Royal Farmers'	12,516	Era	138
General	11,050	British Provident	27
Legal and Commercial	10,782	Preserver	22
Hand-in-Hand	10,030		

A return is also given of the sums insured at each office on farming stock exempt from duty. Under this head the totals insured at the London offices are as follows:—

Farming Stock (exempt from duty) insured at London Offices.

	£		£
Sun	7,439,658	General	91,563
County	6,624,754	Defender	67,020
Royal Farmers'	4,611,137	Equitable	60,210
Royal Exchange	4,225,930	Monarch	58,061
Phoenix	4,191,478	Westminster	41,275
Alliance	2,546,236	Church of England	35,156
Atlas	1,127,920	Times	31,715
Globe	1,012,131	Anchor	30,708
Imperial	808,350	Athenæum	27,430
Guardian	347,255	Hand-in-Hand	16,885
London	279,933	National Guardian	14,034
Union	245,071	National Provincial	13,780
Unity	186,368	Era	3,920
Law	144,030	Beacon	150
Legal and Commercial	122,768		

THE BANK OF FRANCE.

THE *Moniteur* publishes the following monthly debtor and creditor account of the Bank of France, made up to the 8th of June:—

DEBTOR.						F.	C.
Capital of the bank	..	..	..	..	..	91,250,000	0
Reserve of the bank	..	..	..	..	..	12,980,750	14
Reserve of the bank in landed property	..	..	..	..	..	4,000,000	0
Bank notes in circulation	..	..	..	..	..	446,122,800	0
Do. of the branch banks	..	..	..	..	..	136,841,575	0
Bank notes to order	..	..	..	..	..	6,316,261	95
Receipts payable at sight	..	..	..	..	..	11,875,623	0
Treasury account current, creditor	..	..	..	..	..	85,870,391	18
Sundry accounts current	..	..	..	..	..	171,327,545	55
Do. with the branch banks	..	..	..	..	..	34,422,426	0
Dividends payable	..	..	..	..	..	324,094	25
Discounts and sundry interests	..	..	..	..	..	10,946,058	54
Commission on deposits	..	..	..	..	..	15,799	80
Rediscounted during the last six months	..	..	..	..	..	1,289,106	12
Sundries	..	..	..	..	..	2,298,584	52
						F.1,015,881,016	5
CREDITOR.						F.	C.
Cash in hand	..	..	..	..	..	279,493,847	43
Do. in the branch banks	..	..	..	..	..	189,060,693	0
Commercial bills overdue	..	..	..	..	..	693,896	78
Commercial bills discounted, but not yet due, of which 48,203,651f. 97c. were received from the branch banks	..	..	..	..	..	133,729,207	77
Do. in the branch banks	..	..	..	..	..	158,344,720	0
Advanced on deposit of bullion	..	..	..	..	..	2,075,200	0
Do. by the branch banks	..	..	..	..	..	1,450,993	0
Advanced on French public securities	..	..	..	..	..	19,096,936	10
Do. by the branch banks	..	..	..	..	..	6,442,050	0
Advanced on railway securities	..	..	..	..	..	36,021,500	0
Do. by the branch banks	..	..	..	..	..	13,312,470	0
Advanced to the state on the treaty of June 30th, 1848	..	..	..	..	..	70,000,000	0
Discounted Treasury bonds for the Treasury	..	..	..	..	..	30,000,000	0
Government stock reserved	..	..	..	..	..	10,000,000	0
Do. disposable	..	..	..	..	..	55,447,573	90
Hotel and furniture of the bank	..	..	..	..	..	4,000,000	7
Landed property of the branch banks	..	..	..	..	..	4,034,088	0
Expenses of the management of the bank	..	..	..	..	..	1,401,415	21
Sundries	..	..	..	..	..	1,097,847	88
Protested bills	..	..	..	..	..	178,576	91
						F.1,015,881,016	5

Certified by the Governor of the Bank of France, Count D'ARGOUT.

It appears from these returns that the metallic reserve has increased during the past month 30,000,000f. in Paris, and 29,500,000f. in the branch banks. The discount accommodation has been diminished both in Paris and in the departments, in the former 31,500,000f., and in the latter 12,250,000f. The advances on *rentes* remain nearly as they were, while those on railway shares are nearly unchanged in Paris, but have fallen off about 250,000f. in the provinces. On the side of the liabilities, the notes in circulation have fallen off 9,250,000f. in Paris, and increased 2,000,000f. in the branch banks. The account-current of the Treasury has increased 11,250,000f.; those of private individuals have increased 4,750,000f. in Paris, and 4,500,000f. in the departments. The whole of the metallic reserve amounts at present to 466,500,000f. against 583,000,000f. notes in circulation.

Bankers' Weekly Circulation Returns.

Pursuant to the Act 7 & 8 Victoria, c. 32; extracted from the LONDON GAZETTES.

PRIVATE BANKS.

NAME OF BANK.	Authorised Issue.	AVERAGE AMOUNT.			
		April 22.	April 29.	May 6.	May 13.
	£	£	£	£	£
1 Andover Bank	17,751	11,861	12,835	12,280	10,955
2 Ashford Bank	11,849	11,705	11,033	12,144	11,198
3 Aylsham Bank	5,854	4,619	4,426	4,465	4,496
4 Aylesbury Old Bank	48,461	30,184	30,210	28,667	27,260
5 Baldock and Biggleswade Bank ...	37,223	26,992	26,816	25,473	24,926
6 Barnstaple Bank	17,182	12,298	12,580	12,257	12,001
7 Basingstoke and Odiham Bank ...	24,730	18,785	19,591	19,935	18,796
8 Bedford Bank	34,218	33,554	33,921	32,676	32,554
9 Bewdley Bank	18,597	12,693	13,266	14,215	15,079
10 Bicester and Oxfordshire Bank	27,090	15,327	14,961	14,490	14,930
11 Birmingham Bank—Attwoods & Co.	23,695	22,667	24,963	22,878	23,248
12 Birmingham and Warwickshire Bk.	18,132	11,373	10,533	11,062	11,072
13 Blandford Bank	9,723	9,177	9,184	9,033	8,949
14 Boston Bank—Garfit and Co.	75,069	66,384	69,038	75,777	86,813
15 Boston Bank—Gee and Co.	15,161	15,463	13,963	15,091	14,840
16 Bridgewater Bank	10,028	7,363	7,375	6,974	6,295
17 Bristol Bank	48,277	41,075	42,560	42,655	42,915
18 Broseley and Bridgenorth Bank ...	26,717	17,873	18,446	18,215	18,274
19 Buckingham Bank	29,557	22,916	22,370	22,208	22,336
20 Bury and Suffolk Bank	82,362	71,038	70,440	69,706	68,067
21 Banbury Bank	43,457	36,791	36,238	35,811	35,369
22 Banbury Old Bank	55,153	26,025	26,335	25,814	25,587
23 Bath City Bank	4,572	3,361	3,137	2,837	3,132
24 Bedfordshire Leighton Buzzard Bk.	36,829	36,815	35,494	34,057	33,220
25 Birmingham Bk.—Taylor & Lloyds	38,816	39,511	37,814	33,729	33,644
26 Bradford Old Bank	12,676	13,028	13,038	12,005	11,810
27 Brecon Old Bank	68,271	64,570	66,078	66,296	66,978
28 Brighton Union Bank	33,794	28,595	28,268	27,900	27,119
29 Burlington and Driffield Bank	12,745	12,566	12,582	12,385	12,224
30 Bury St. Edmund's Bank	3,201	2,729	2,875	2,850	2,615
31 Cambridge Bk.—Mortlock & Co.	25,744	17,393	17,016	16,655	15,824
32 Cambridge and Cambridgeshire Bk.	49,916	44,925	45,145	44,809	44,695
33 Canterbury Bank	33,671	32,005	33,290	32,382	30,286
34 Carmarthen Bank	23,597	23,413	22,370	22,298	23,248
35 Chertsey Bank	3,436	3,210	2,925	3,236	2,850
36 Colchester Bank	25,082	18,203	18,249	18,106	17,042
37 Colchester and Essex Bank	48,704	31,823	31,807	30,440	30,074
38 Cornish Bank—Tweedy & Co. ...	49,869	48,318	47,169	47,615	47,985
39 Coventry Bank	12,045	6,414	6,892	6,670	6,394
40 City Bank, Exeter	21,527	21,375	21,496	21,129	20,123
41 Craven Bank—Alcock & Co.	77,154	77,079	75,716	75,752	76,206
42 Cardiff Bank	7,001	6,628	6,570	6,627	6,947
43 Chepstow Old Bank	9,387	9,420	9,622	8,901	8,038
44 Derby Bank—Messrs. Evans	13,332	13,703	12,223	11,877	11,693
45 Derby Bank—Smith and Co.	41,304	43,435	41,465	38,656	39,628
46 Derby Old Bank	27,237	27,472	27,521	25,953	25,751
47 Devizes and Wiltshire Bank	20,674	10,212	10,275	10,278	10,223
48 Diss Bank	10,657	10,438	10,587	10,530	10,404
49 Doncaster Bank and Retford Bank	77,400	79,024	77,571	77,089	74,528
50 Darlington Bank	86,218	85,316	82,785	86,504	89,859
51 Devonport Bank	10,664	10,180	10,935	10,772	10,404
52 Dorchester Old Bank	48,807	50,952	47,980	46,946	45,685
53 East Cornwall Bk.—Robins & Co.	112,280	107,543	109,087	106,924	104,229
54 East Riding Bank—Bower & Co.	53,392	55,470	54,549	50,824	49,334
55 Essex Bk; & Bishops Stortford Bk.	69,637	44,430	46,241	46,587	44,806
56 Exeter Bank	37,894	28,768	28,632	28,013	27,068
57 Fakenham Bank	24,293	21,456	22,192	22,693	28,888

WEEKLY RETURNS OF BANKS OF ISSUE.

NAME OF BANK.	Authorised Issue.	AVERAGE AMOUNT.			
		April 22.	April 29.	May 6.	May 13.
	£	£	£	£	£
58 Faringdon Bk. & Bk. of Wantage	8,977	7,460	6,661	6,621	6,096
59 Farnham Bank.....	14,102	11,996	12,373	12,072	12,029
60 Faversham Bank.....	6,681	6,344	6,486	6,235	6,223
61 Godalming Bank.....	6,322	6,360	6,370	6,228	6,266
62 Guildford Bank.....	14,524	7,042	6,720	8,095	8,855
63 Grantham Bank—Hardy and Co.	30,372	29,323	29,910	30,948	30,215
64 Hastings Old Bank.....	38,038	34,240	34,420	33,949	34,172
65 Hereford City and County Bank..	22,364	19,396	19,537	18,803	17,795
66 Hertford and Ware Bank.....	23,635	19,999	19,365	19,530	18,347
67 Hull & Kingston-upon-Hull Bank	19,979	18,930	18,617	19,165	19,260
68 Huntingdon Town & County Bank	56,591	45,096	47,589	47,137	44,815
69 Harwich Bank.....	5,778	5,726	5,437	5,525	5,398
70 Hemel Hempstead Bank.....	23,842	24,150	24,839	23,162	23,256
71 Hertfordshire, Hitchin Bank.....	38,764	39,852	37,104	37,368	37,054
72 Hereford, Ross, & Archenfield Bk.	27,625	22,902	22,733	22,138	22,525
73 Ipswich Bank.....	21,901	20,197	20,337	20,317	19,911
74 Ipswich & Needham Market Bank	80,699	63,896	62,637	63,357	60,229
75 Kentish Bank—Mercer & Co.	19,895	15,724	16,051	16,110	15,344
76 Kington and Radnorshire Bank...	26,050	26,033	26,031	26,036	25,949
77 Knighton Bank.....	9,090	8,930	9,077	9,155	9,100
78 Knarborough Old Bank.....	21,825	20,817	21,332	22,091	22,360
79 Kendal Bank.....	44,663	46,298	45,220	43,701	42,831
80 Kettering Bank.....	9,192	8,862	8,985	8,754	8,976
81 Lane End Staffordshire Bank ...	5,624	5,168	5,036	5,240	5,185
82 Leeds Bank.....	53,357	53,000	53,815	53,269	53,285
83 Leeds Union Bank.....	37,459	37,489	37,200	36,785	37,461
84 Leicester Bank.....	32,322	29,568	29,263	29,034	30,380
85 Lewes Old Bank.....	44,836	30,970	30,765	29,759	28,602
86 Lichfield Bank.....	22,786	12,590	12,555	12,207	10,761
87 Lincoln Bank.....	100,342	93,015	94,874	97,605	100,805
88 Llandovery Bank & Llandilo Bank	32,945	19,331	19,009	20,753	24,968
89 Loughborough Bank.....	7,359	7,067	7,070	7,355	7,632
90 Lymington Bank.....	5,038	4,179	4,044	4,024	4,379
91 Lynn Regis and Lincolnshire Bank	42,817	36,184	35,788	35,680	37,020
92 Lynn Regis and Norfolk Bank ...	13,917	11,505	11,400	12,427	11,296
93 Macclesfield Bank.....	15,760	15,559	15,714	15,670	15,060
94 Manningtree Bank.....	7,692	2,489	2,565	2,942	3,140
95 Merionethshire Bank.....	10,906	7,063	7,673	7,562	8,553
96 Miners' Bank.....	18,688	16,413	15,715	15,393	15,420
97 Monmouthshire Agricultural and Commercial Bank.....	29,335	29,701	28,394	29,470	29,150
98 Monmouth Old Bank.....	16,385	14,531	14,485	15,733	16,243
99 Newark Bank.....	28,788	26,603	26,831	26,530	26,726
100 Newark and Sleaford Bank.....	51,615	50,681	50,263	52,903	52,233
101 Newbury Bank.....	36,787	21,350	21,138	21,585	20,780
102 Newmarket Bank.....	23,098	19,572	19,386	20,117	18,675
103 Norwich Crown Bank and Norfolk and Suffolk Bank.....	49,671	48,870	48,845	48,245	48,192
104 Norwich and Norfolk Bank.....	75,372	75,400	77,467	69,745	70,060
105 Nottingham, Nottinghamshire ...	10,866	9,975	10,043	10,292	10,508
106 Nuneaton Bank.....	5,898	3,206	3,022	2,974	3,035
107 Naval Bank, Plymouth.....	27,321	27,468	27,970	27,282	26,204
108 New Sarum Bk.—Everett & Smith	15,659	12,249	12,792	12,204	11,554
109 Nottingham Bank.....	31,047	33,496	33,078	31,121	26,345
110 Oswestry Bank.....	18,471	10,811	10,424	11,113	10,817
111 Oxford Old Bank.....	34,391	31,299	30,440	33,939	33,123
112 Old Bank, Tonbridge.....	13,183	9,451	8,945	8,965	9,244
113 Oxfordshire Witney Bank.....	11,852	10,082	10,155	10,321	9,941
114 Pease's Old Bank, Hull.....	48,807	46,526	47,054	46,588	46,643
115 Penzance Bank.....	11,405	10,989	10,721	11,093	11,093
116 Peterborough Bank—Yorke & Co.	12,545	9,268	9,520	10,669	10,476

WEEKLY RETURNS OF BANKS OF ISSUE.

NAME OF BANK.	Authorised Issue.	AVERAGE AMOUNT.			
		April 22.	April 29.	May 6.	May 13.
	£	£	£	£	£
117 Pembrokehire Bank	12,910	10,404	10,246	10,181	10,428
118 Reading Bank—Simmonds & Co.	37,519	29,222	29,695	31,355	30,739
119 Reading Bk.—Stephens & Blandy	43,271	30,254	30,280	31,155	29,564
120 Richmond Bank, Richmond	6,889	7,097	7,034	7,077	6,321
121 Rochdale Bank	5,590	4,776	4,966	4,900	4,716
122 Rochester, Chatham, & Strood Bk.	10,480	8,911	8,402	7,788	7,863
123 Royston Bank	16,393	13,840	13,911	13,810	13,585
124 Rugby Bank	17,250	12,630	12,936	11,946	11,353
125 Rye Bank	29,864	15,460	14,534	14,701	14,215
126 Ross Old Bank, Herefordshire ...	4,420	4,275	4,248	3,974	4,338
127 Saffron Walden & North Essex Bk.	47,646	28,490	29,043	28,137	27,457
128 Salop Bank	22,338	16,233	16,337	16,915	17,018
129 Scarborough Old Bank	24,813	24,550	24,431	24,450	24,595
130 Shrewsbury Old Bank	43,191	40,887	40,622	42,224	39,840
131 Sittingbourne and Milton Bank ...	4,789	2,453	2,335	2,304	2,529
132 Southampton Town & County Bk.	18,589	15,527	15,125	15,467	15,237
133 Southwell Bank	14,744	12,882	12,777	12,514	12,279
134 Southampton and Hampshire Bk.	6,770	3,790	3,869	3,840	3,800
135 Stafford Old Bank	14,166	13,297	13,230	13,075	12,443
136 Stamford and Rutland Bank	31,858	32,801	33,465	32,110	28,054
137 Shrewsbury and Welsh Pool Bank	25,336	25,764	24,708	24,277	23,400
138 Taunton Bank	29,799	26,705	26,586	25,929	25,014
139 Tavistock Bank	13,421	12,131	11,574	11,611	10,441
140 Thornbury Bank	10,026	7,070	7,031	6,275	6,050
141 Tiverton and Devonshire Bank ...	13,470	10,512	11,086	10,582	10,281
142 Thrapstone and Kettering Bank ...	11,559	11,352	11,201	11,028	11,296
143 Tring Bank and Chesham Bank ..	13,531	13,426	14,212	13,120	12,785
144 Towcester Old Bank	10,801	9,230	8,488	8,476	7,961
145 Town and County of Poole Bk. and Ringwood and Poole Bk.	11,856	12,019	11,842	11,722	11,551
146 Union Bank, Cornwall	17,003	11,018	10,873	12,442	13,236
147 Uxbridge Old Bank	25,136	16,972	17,368	16,818	15,931
148 Wallingford Bank	17,064	7,660	8,091	7,867	8,365
149 Warwick and Warwickshire Bank	30,504	24,788	24,549	23,302	23,493
150 Wellington Bank, Somerset	6,528	3,555	3,435	3,268	2,964
151 West Riding Bank	46,158	45,615	47,428	45,454	44,811
152 Whitby Old Bank	14,258	14,273	13,915	14,286	14,296
153 Winchester, Alresford & Alton Bk.	25,892	21,035	21,207	20,156	19,535
154 Winchester and Hampshire Bank	6,737	4,860	4,895	5,582	4,432
155 Weymouth Old Bank	16,461	15,748	15,060	15,407	15,258
156 Wirksworth and Derbyshire Bk.	37,602	36,933	38,139	36,304	37,049
157 Wisbeach and Lincolnshire Bank	59,713	50,943	50,626	54,066	53,086
158 Wiveliscombe Bank	7,602	7,503	7,369	7,307	7,291
159 Wolverhampton Bk.—Goodricke	14,180	13,555	13,052	12,482	13,137
160 Worcester Bank	15,463	9,361	9,085	8,396	8,551
161 Worcester Old Bank	87,448	68,913	69,632	67,313	68,108
162 Worcestershire Bank	14,309	9,389	8,702	8,935	8,760
163 Wolverham. Bk.—R. & W. Fryer	11,867	12,424	11,498	11,526	11,605
164 Yarmouth and Suffolk Bank	53,060	40,094	39,800	40,177	38,953
165 Yarmouth, Norfolk, & Suffolk Bk.	13,229	12,060	11,623	11,722	11,115
166 York Bank	46,387	46,372	45,705	46,673	45,958

JOINT STOCK BANKS.

1 Bank of Westmoreland	12,225	10,422	11,567	11,788	12,025
2 Barnsley Banking Company	9,563	9,518	9,665	9,236	8,925
3 Bradford Banking Company	49,292	51,427	49,597	47,890	47,871
4 Bilston District Banking Company	9,418	7,420	8,184	7,375	8,985
5 Bank of Whitehaven	32,681	31,585	31,790	31,559	31,178
6 Bradford Commercial Banking Co.	20,084	20,475	20,250	19,483	19,949
7 Burton, Uttoxeter, and Staffordshire Union Bank	60,701	57,585	59,519	59,583	59,458

WEEKLY RETURNS OF BANKS OF ISSUE.

NAME OF BANK.	Authorized Issue.	AVERAGE AMOUNT.			
		April 22.	April 29.	May 5.	May 12.
	£	£	£	£	£
8 Chesterfield & N. Derbysh. Bk. Co.	10,421	9,222	10,125	10,011	10,167
9 Cumberland Union Banking Co....	35,395	35,339	35,390	34,360	34,387
10 Cheltenham & Glo'stershire Bk. Co.	12,786	10,708	10,604	10,242	10,068
11 Coventry and Warwickshire Bk. Co.	28,734	25,620	24,881	25,078	24,817
12 Coventry Union Banking Company	16,251	15,105	15,353	16,274	16,989
13 County of Gloucester Banking Co.	144,352	118,515	118,170	116,372	114,586
14 Carlisle & Cumberland Banking Co.	25,610	26,056	26,812	24,554	24,580
15 Carlisle City and District Bank ...	19,972	20,026	20,577	19,977	19,202
16 Dudley & West Bromwich Bk. Co.	37,696	38,315	35,393	34,792	35,901
17 Derby and Derbyshire Banking Co.	40,093	19,900	19,918	19,380	18,850
18 Darlington Dist. Joint Stock Bk. Co.	26,134	24,793	24,412	27,670	27,583
19 East of England Bank	25,025	23,536	24,456	24,810	24,505
20 Gloucestershire Banking Company	155,920	155,715	155,873	151,940	149,731
21 Halifax Joint Stock Bank.....	18,534	18,241	18,171	18,430	19,022
22 Huddersfield Banking Company...	37,354	38,506	36,890	34,950	36,092
23 Hull Banking Company	29,333	27,123	27,612	27,143	28,100
24 Halifax Commercial Banking Co...	13,733	14,085	13,645	13,226	13,264
25 Halifax & Huddersfield Union Bk.	44,137	46,405	44,896	40,770	40,507
26 Helston Banking Company	1,503	1,512	1,533	1,465	1,300
27 Herefordshire Banking Company...	25,047	19,040	20,081	19,820	18,631
28 Knaresborough and Claro Bk. Co.	28,059	28,551	28,188	27,420	27,643
29 Kingsbridge Joint Stock Bank	3,952	4,072	4,026	3,841	3,739
30 Lancaster Banking Company	64,311	64,054	64,897	61,338	61,859
31 Leeds Banking Company	23,076	22,717	19,559	23,855	24,732
32 Leicestershire Banking Company...	86,060	87,000	84,430	86,175	81,978
33 Lincoln and Lindsey Banking Co.	51,620	47,008	46,695	49,964	53,976
34 Leamington Priors and Warwickshire Bank	13,875	13,775	12,824	12,592	12,137
35 Ludlow and Tenbury Bank	10,215	10,353	10,602	9,618	9,636
36 Moore & Robinson's Notts. Bank...	35,813	35,196	34,947	36,455	35,921
37 Nottingham and Notts. Banking Co.	29,477	29,205	29,332	29,152	28,682
38 National Provincial Bk. of England	442,371	415,013	410,184	408,860	410,049
39 North Wilts Banking Company ...	63,939	49,221	47,681	44,830	44,074
40 Northamptonshire Union Bank ...	84,356	82,514	77,690	79,028	76,926
41 Northamptonshire Banking Co. ...	26,401	26,115	25,610	25,657	26,029
42 North and South Wales Bank.....	63,951	45,002	44,255	45,325	44,947
43 Parc's Leicestershire Banking Co...	59,300	57,825	57,227	54,791	54,837
44 Saddleworth Banking Company ...	8,122	2,425	2,512	2,459	2,458
45 Sheffield Banking Company.....	35,843	32,705	34,898	35,965	35,918
46 Stamford, Spalding & Boston Bk. Co.	55,721	56,976	57,126	53,677	50,947
47 Stuckey's Banking Company	356,976	346,248	347,697	351,097	347,472
48 Shropshire Banking Company.....	47,951	44,355	46,772	46,532	45,846
49 Stourbridge and Kidderminster Bk.	56,830	57,592	56,608	56,210	56,231
50 Sheffield and Hallamshire Bank ...	23,524	20,265	22,545	24,557	23,218
51 Sheffield & Rotherham Jt. Stock Bk.	52,496	52,041	53,320	53,461	50,433
52 Swaledale and Wensleydale Bank...	54,372	53,058	53,341	53,057	52,354
53 Storey and Thomas's Bank	9,714	9,855	9,790	9,058	9,121
54 Wolverhampton & Staffordsh. Bk...	35,378	31,859	30,149	32,249	34,948
55 Wakefield and Barnsley Union Bk.	14,604	13,520	13,123	12,921	13,210
56 Whitehaven Joint Stock Bank ...	31,916	29,771	30,931	31,272	30,357
57 Warwick and Leamington Bk. Co.	37,124	32,526	32,427	32,681	31,125
58 West of England and South Wales District Bank	83,535	76,090	76,526	77,558	80,881
59 Wilts & Dorset Banking Company	76,162	76,177	74,490	72,155	70,598
60 West Riding Union Banking Co....	34,029	34,184	33,291	31,742	32,624
61 Whitechurch and Ellesmere Bk. Co.	7,475	5,012	5,589	5,353	5,140
62 Worcester City and County Bk. Co.	6,848	5,960	6,159	6,415	6,505
63 York Union Banking Company ...	71,240	70,419	70,825	70,892	70,225
64 York City and County Banking Co.	94,695	91,074	90,605	90,847	89,490
65 Yorkshire Banking Company	124,532	117,098	125,015	120,361	121,341

SUMMARY OF WEEKLY RETURNS OF BANKS OF ISSUE.

	Fixed Issues.	April 22.	April 29.	May 6.	May 13.
166 Private Banks.....	£4,607,455	£3,978,178	£3,969,211	£3,946,339	£3,906,376
65 Joint Stock Banks..	3,325,857	3,151,025	3,147,220	3,127,684	3,114,822
231 Totals.....	7,933,312	7,129,203	7,116,431	7,074,023	7,021,198

Average Weekly Circulation of these Banks for the month ending May 13th:—

Private Banks	£3,950,026
Joint-Stock Banks.....	3,135,188

Average Weekly Circulation of Private and Joint-Stock Banks ending as above £7,085,214

On a comparison of the above with the Returns for the month ending 15th April last, it shows:—

An increase in the notes of Private Banks, of	£45,577
A decrease in the notes of Joint-Stock Banks, of	17,966

Total increase on the month.....£27,611

And as compared with the month ending 14th May, 1853, it shows—

An increase in the notes of Private Banks, of	£38,502
A decrease in the notes of Joint-Stock Banks, of	446

Total increase, as compared with the same period of last year £38,056

The following is the comparative state of the circulation, as regards the fixed issues—

The Private Banks are below their fixed issues	£687,429
The Joint-Stock Banks are below their fixed issues.....	190,669

Total below the fixed issues £848,098

Irish and Scotch Circulation Returns.

Average Circulation, and Coin held by the IRISH and SCOTCH BANKS during the four weeks ending Saturday, the 13th day of May, 1854.

IRISH BANKS.

NAME OF BANK.	Authorised Circulation.	Average Circulation during Four Weeks, ending as above.			Average Amt. of Gold & Silver Coin held during Four Weeks ending as above.
		£5 and upwards.	Under £5.	Total.	
Bank of Ireland	3,738,428	4,030,825	1,268,775	3,299,600	821,673
Provincial Bank of Ireland	927,667	358,564	581,844	940,405	260,536
Belfast Bank	281,611	62,822	408,757	471,579	261,359
Northern Bank	243,440	39,543	235,609	275,152	81,986
Ulster Bank	311,079	51,943	421,587	473,531	193,625
National Bank of Ireland...	761,757	447,430	596,745	1,044,175	395,547
Carrick-on-Suir Nat. Bank	24,084	9,251	14,010	23,262	4,363
Clonmel National Bank ...	66,428	27,722	30,093	57,816	11,440
TOTALS (Irish Banks) ...	6,354,494	3,028,100	3,557,420	6,585,520	2,030,529

SCOTCH BANKS.

Bank of Scotland	300,485	129,889	257,969	387,858	152,894
Boyal Bank of Scotland ...	183,000	68,412	116,900	185,312	54,633
British Linen Company	438,024	183,052	306,202	489,255	155,648
Commercial Bk. of Scotland	374,880	160,524	329,352	489,876	157,786
National Bank of Scotland..	297,024	108,256	222,531	330,787	69,463
Union Bank of Scotland and Banking Com. in Aberdeen	415,690	174,505	334,457	508,962	170,849
Edinburgh & Glasgow Bk...	136,657	59,291	90,472	149,763	48,807
Aberdeen Town and Co. Bk.	70,133	39,736	66,509	106,245	39,605
North of Scotland Bk. Co...	154,319	98,182	102,844	201,026	57,769
Dundee Banking Company	33,451	11,967	24,451	36,419	6,669
Eastern Bank of Scotland...	33,636	19,621	24,939	44,560	12,381
Western Bank of Scotland..	337,938	165,600	370,139	535,739	284,031
Clydesdale Banking Co. ...	104,028	33,356	102,564	135,920	60,437
City of Glasgow Bank	72,921	81,728	103,429	185,158	125,760
Caledonian Banking Co. ...	53,434	24,223	48,327	72,551	28,341
Perth Banking Company ...	38,656	17,060	31,089	48,149	16,061
Central Bank of Scotland...	42,933	23,213	36,812	60,026	20,059
TOTALS (Scotch Banks)...	3,087,209	1,398,615	2,568,986	3,967,606	1,461,193

CIRCULATION RETURNS.

SUMMARY OF IRISH & SCOTCH RETURNS TO MAY 13, 1854.

The Returns of Circulation of the Irish and Scotch Banks for the four weeks ending 13th May, when added together, give the following as the average weekly circulation of these banks during the past month, viz. :—

Average Circulation of the Irish Banks...£6,585,520
Average Circulation of the Scotch Banks 3,967,606

Total Average Circulation of these Banks
for the past month£10,553,126

On comparing these amounts with the Returns for the month ending 15th April last, they show—

Decrease in the Circulation of Irish Banks £ 55,891
Increase in the Circulation of Scotch Banks 133,508

Total increase on the month.....£77,617

And as compared with the month ending May 14th, 1853, they show—

Increase in the Circulation of Irish Banks £1,076,971
Increase in the Circulation of Scotch Banks 280,277

Total increase on the year.....1,357,248

The fixed issues of the Irish and Scotch Banks at the present time are given in the *Banking Almanac*, as follows:—

8 Banks in Ireland, allowed to issue...£26,354,494
19 Banks in Scotland, allowed to issue .. 3,087,209

26 Banks in all, allowed to issue.....£29,441,703

The following appears, therefore, to be the comparative state of the circulation :—

Irish Banks are above their fixed issue .. £231,076
Scotch Banks are above their fixed issue 680,397

Total above the fixed issue£1,111,423

The amounts of Gold and Silver held at the head offices of the several banks, during the past month, have been as follows:—

Gold and Silver held by the Irish Banks £2,030,339
Gold and Silver held by the Scotch Banks 1,461,193

Total of Gold and Silver Coin£3,491,722

Being a decrease of £42,586 on the part of the Irish Banks, and an increase of £12,963 on the part of the Scotch Banks, on the several amounts held by them during the preceding month.

CIRCULATION OF THE UNITED KINGDOM TO MAY 13, 1854.

The following is the state of the Note Circulation of the United Kingdom, for the month ending the 13th May, 1854.

Circulation of Notes for the Month ending May 13th, as compared with the previous month :

	April 15.	May 13.	Increase.	Decrease.
Bank of England	£21,956,553	£21,908,951	—	£47,604
Private Banks	3,904,449	3,950,076	£45,577	—
Joint Stock Banks	3,153,154	3,135,188	—	17,966
Total in England	29,014,156	28,994,165	45,577	65,570
Scotland	3,834,098	3,967,606	133,508	—
Ireland	6,641,411	6,585,520	—	55,891
United Kingdom.....	39,489,667	39,547,291	179,085	121,461

The comparison of the month ending May 14th, 1853, with the month ending May 13th, 1854, shows a decrease in the Bank of England circulation of £1,382,433, an increase in Private Banks of £38,502, and a decrease in Joint Stock Banks of £446; being a total decrease in England of £1,344,377: while in Scotland there is an increase of £280,277; and in Ireland an increase of £1,076,971. Thus showing that the month ending 13th May, as compared with the same period last year, presents a decrease of £1,344,377 in England, and an increase of £12,871 in the United Kingdom.

The return of Bullion in the Bank of England, for the month ending May 13th, gives an aggregate amount in both departments of £12,856,866. On a comparison of this with the Return for the month ending April 15th, there appears to be a decrease of £1,325,752; and a decrease of £5,481,512 as compared with the same period last year.

The stock of specie held by the Banks in Scotland and Ireland during the month ending 13th May, was £3,491,722; being a decrease of £29,623 as compared with the return of the previous month, and an increase of £892,901 as compared with the corresponding period last year.

Bank of England Weekly Returns.

Account, pursuant to the Act 7th and 8th of Victoria, cap. 32, for the Weeks ending as follows.

ISSUE DEPARTMENT.

	1854. May 20th.	1854. May 27th.	1854. June 3rd.	1854. June 10th.
Notes issued.....	£ 25,779,095	£ 26,012,250	£ 26,006,875	£ 25,981,750
Government debt.....	11,015,100	11,015,100	11,015,100	11,015,100
Other securities.....	2,984,900	2,984,900	2,984,900	2,984,900
Gold coin and bullion.....	11,779,095	12,012,250	12,006,875	11,981,750
Silver bullion.....	—	—	—	—
	25,779,095	26,012,250	26,006,875	25,981,750

BANKING DEPARTMENT.

	1854. May 20th.	1854. May 27th.	1854. June 3rd.	1854. June 10th.
Proprietors' capital.....	£ 14,553,000	£ 14,553,000	£ 14,553,000	£ 14,553,000
Reserve.....	3,225,731	3,227,045	3,180,655	3,187,682
Public deposits (including Ex- chequer, Savings' Banks, Com- missioners of National Debt, and Dividend Accounts).....	2,671,551	2,489,944	2,557,654	2,993,668
Other deposits.....	10,146,428	10,283,180	10,212,244	10,483,130
Seven day and other bills.....	1,069,784	1,026,415	1,057,090	1,020,893
	31,666,494	31,579,584	31,560,633	32,238,373
Government securities (including Dead Weight Annuity).....	10,406,309	9,856,309	9,856,309	10,024,481
Other securities.....	15,425,281	15,441,966	15,494,523	15,799,944
Notes.....	5,100,030	5,552,710	5,466,545	5,667,645
Gold and silver coin.....	734,874	728,599	743,274	746,303
	31,666,494	31,579,584	31,560,633	32,238,373

The Exchanges.

	May 19th.	May 26th.	June 2nd.	June 9th.
Amsterdam, short ..	11 14½	11 15½	11 16	11 15½
Ditto 3 months..	11 16½	11 17½	11 17½	11 17½
Rotterdam, ditto ..	11 16½	11 17½	11 17½	11 17½
Antwerp, ditto ..	25 22½	25 22½	25 25	25 25
Brussels, ditto ..	25 22½	25 22½	25 25	25 25
Hamburg, ditto.....	13 6	13 5½	13 7	13 6½
Paris, short ..	24 9½	25 0	25 0	25 2½
Paris, 3 months ..	25 30	25 30	25 30	25 30
Marseilles, ditto ..	25 32½	25 32½	25 30	25 32½
Frankfort, ditto	118½	118½	118½	119
Vienna, ditto.....	13 55	13 48	13 40	13 20
Trieste, ditto.....	13 55	13 52	13 45	13 24
Petersburgh, ditto ..	—	—	—	—
Madrid, ditto ..	50½	50	49½	49½
Cadiz, ditto ..	50½	50½	50½	50½
Leghorn, ditto ..	30 55	30 52½	30 50	30 45
Genoa, ditto ..	25 52½	25 50	25 37½	25 40
Naples, ditto.....	41½	42	42	42
Palermo, ditto ..	126½	126½	126½	127
Messina, ditto ..	126½	127	127	127½
Lisbon, 60 days' date	53	53	52½	52½
Oporto, ditto ..	53½	53½	53½	53½
Rio Janeiro, ditto ..	—	—	—	—

PRICES OF BULLION.

	Per Ounce.	Per Ounce.	Per Ounce.	Per Ounce.
Foreign Gold in Bars. (Standard).....	£3 17 9	£3 17 9	£3 17 9	£3 17 9
Mexican Dollars ..	0 0 0	0 5 1	0 5 1	0 5 1½
Silver in Bars (Stand.)	0 0 0	0 5 1½	0 5 1½	0 5 1½

Bankers' Weekly Circulation Returns.

Pursuant to the Act 7 & 8 Victoria, c. 32; extracted from the LONDON GAZETTE.

PRIVATE BANKS.

NAME OF BANK.	Authorised Issue.	AVERAGE AMOUNT.			
		May 20.	May 27.	June 3.	June 10.
	£	£	£	£	£
1 Andover Bank	17,751	11,488	10,713	11,604	11,658
2 Ashford Bank	11,849	11,946	10,690	10,389	11,698
3 Aylsham Bank	5,854	4,554	4,576	4,644	4,671
4 Aylesbury Old Bank	48,461	25,780	24,505	23,448	24,200
5 Baldock and Biggleswade Bank ...	37,223	25,310	25,880	27,161	26,726
6 Barnstable Bank	17,182	12,295	11,014	10,506	10,725
7 Basingstoke and Odiham Bank ...	24,730	17,747	17,983	18,743	18,281
8 Bedford Bank	34,218	31,739	31,300	30,523	29,858
9 Bewdley Bank	18,597	13,413	12,578	12,409	11,885
10 Bicester and Oxfordshire Bank ...	27,090	14,278	14,521	13,838	13,955
11 Birmingham Bank—Attwoods & Co.	23,695	22,485	22,695	24,653	22,324
12 Birmingham and Warwickshire Bk.	18,132	10,820	10,594	10,611	10,302
13 Blandford Bank	9,723	8,308	7,923	7,506	7,383
14 Boston Bank—Garfit and Co.	75,069	83,029	75,911	71,273	65,085
15 Boston Bank—Gee and Co.	15,161	15,005	14,402	14,815	13,871
16 Bridgewater Bank	10,028	6,151	6,151	5,622	5,113
17 Bristol Bank	48,277	41,740	39,679	39,178	38,898
18 Broseley and Bridgenorth Bank ...	26,717	17,484	17,855	17,683	17,483
19 Buckingham Bank	29,557	20,821	20,836	20,307	20,074
20 Bury and Suffolk Bank	82,362	65,000	64,368	62,909	62,423
21 Banbury Bank	43,457	33,927	32,315	31,453	30,603
22 Banbury Old Bank	55,153	25,412	25,900	26,153	25,168
23 Bath City Bank	4,572	2,735	2,667	2,589	2,630
24 Bedfordshire Leighton Buzzard Bk.	36,829	32,527	33,265	33,151	33,150
25 Birmingham Bk.—Taylor & Lloyds	38,816	31,911	32,233	32,743	30,848
26 Bradford Old Bank	12,676	11,562	11,132	11,291	12,149
27 Brecon Old Bank	68,271	66,333	68,257	68,913	69,366
28 Brighton Union Bank	33,794	27,140	25,914	24,675	23,881
29 Burlington and Driffield Bank	12,745	12,311	12,206	11,996	11,827
30 Bury St. Edmund's Bank	3,201	2,386	2,366	2,596	2,575
31 Cambridge Bk.—Mortlock & Co.	25,744	16,099	16,298	15,273	15,424
32 Cambridge and Cambridgeshire Bk.	49,916	43,150	42,489	42,431	42,470
33 Canterbury Bank	33,671	29,655	29,840	31,130	31,686
34 Carmarthen Bank	23,597	23,088	23,150	23,435	23,403
35 Chertsey Bank	3,436	4,088	3,553	3,098	2,914
36 Colchester Bank	25,082	16,141	15,766	15,525	15,268
37 Colchester and Essex Bank	48,704	29,199	28,600	27,931	27,184
38 Cornish Bank—Tweedy & Co. ...	49,869	47,618	46,300	46,663	48,320
39 Coventry Bank	12,045	6,132	6,529	6,786	6,800
40 City Bank, Exeter	21,527	20,369	20,335	20,645	20,485
41 Craven Bank—Alcocks & Co. ...	77,154	74,610	72,028	71,117	72,742
42 Cardiff Bank	7,001	6,520	6,515	6,488	6,905
43 Chepstow Old Bank	9,387	7,727	7,707	8,775	8,707
44 Derby Bank—Messrs. Evans	13,332	11,349	11,257	11,855	11,798
45 Derby Bank—Smith and Co.	41,304	40,190	40,928	40,574	38,317
46 Derby Old Bank	27,237	25,886	26,946	27,315	27,754
47 Devizes and Wiltshire Bank	20,674	9,727	9,184	8,813	8,994
48 Diss Bank	10,657	10,037	10,526	10,479	10,164
49 Doncaster Bank and Retford Bank	77,400	71,494	70,813	68,904	67,809
50 Darlington Bank	86,218	88,343	84,035	84,801	84,861
51 Devonport Bank	10,664	9,946	11,245	11,183	10,258
52 Dorchester Old Bank	48,807	46,726	46,031	40,301	45,149
53 East Cornwall Bk.—Robins & Co.	112,280	101,518	102,005	105,292	105,576
54 East Riding Bank—Bower & Co.	53,392	49,169	49,771	50,459	50,481
55 Essex Bk. & Bishops Stortford Bk.	69,637	43,691	43,342	42,080	41,642
56 Exeter Bank	37,894	25,673	25,806	25,880	24,985
57 Fakenham Bank	24,293	21,995	22,209	23,266	23,402

WEEKLY RETURNS OF BANKS OF ISSUE.

NAME OF BANK.	Authorised Issue.	AVERAGE AMOUNT.			
		May 20.	May 27.	June 3.	June 10.
	£	£	£	£	£
58 Faringdon Bk. & Bk. of Wantage	8,977	6,034	6,039	6,421	6,308
59 Farnham Bank	14,202	11,779	13,027	13,005	12,067
60 Faversham Bank	6,681	6,040	5,851	5,602	5,498
61 Godalming Bank	6,322	5,839	5,560	5,496	5,397
62 Guildford Bank	14,524	7,819	6,673	6,027	5,595
63 Grantham Bank—Hardy and Co.	30,372	30,401	27,977	27,344	26,730
64 Hastings Old Bank	38,038	32,137	30,230	29,895	29,096
65 Hereford City and County Bank	22,364	17,594	17,441	16,740	16,227
66 Hertford and Ware Bank	23,635	16,602	16,964	16,925	16,588
67 Hull & Kingston-upon-Hull Bank	19,979	18,936	18,645	17,920	18,222
68 Huntingdon Town & County Bank	56,591	43,510	44,254	43,506	42,594
69 Harwich Bank	5,778	5,501	5,253	5,093	4,896
70 Hemel Hempstead Bank	23,842	23,354	22,757	23,285	23,091
71 Hertfordshire, Hitchin Bank	38,764	36,644	35,831	35,906	35,185
72 Hereford, Ross, & Archenfield Bk.	27,625	21,281	20,627	20,772	20,946
73 Ipswich Bank	21,901	18,802	18,870	18,335	17,935
74 Ipswich & Needham Market Bank	80,699	58,797	57,032	58,214	56,368
75 Kentish Bank—Mercer & Co.	19,895	16,028	14,545	13,969	14,065
76 Kingston and Radnorshire Bank	26,050	25,665	25,326	24,541	25,769
77 Knighton Bank	9,090	9,123	9,057	9,058	9,085
78 Knaresborough Old Bank	21,825	22,585	20,970	20,340	20,724
79 Kendal Bank	44,663	43,216	43,095	43,568	43,733
80 Kettering Bank	9,192	8,632	8,025	8,242	8,891
81 Lane End Staffordshire Bank	5,624	5,335	5,289	5,129	5,193
82 Leeds Bank	52,357	52,670	53,678	53,694	52,918
83 Leeds Union Bank	37,459	36,960	36,802	36,793	37,715
84 Leicester Bank	32,322	31,056	31,449	30,666	29,687
85 Lewes Old Bank	44,836	28,604	28,575	28,013	27,050
86 Lichfield Bank	22,786	10,227	10,397	10,100	9,520
87 Lincoln Bank	100,342	101,845	95,042	94,156	91,268
88 Llandoverly Bank & Llandilo Bank	32,945	23,937	23,402	23,677	24,338
89 Loughborough Bank	7,359	7,885	6,975	6,972	7,209
90 Lymington Bank	5,038	4,196	3,672	3,667	3,720
91 Lynn Regis and Lincolnshire Bank	42,817	36,010	34,706	34,524	35,019
92 Lynn Regis and Norfolk Bank	13,917	11,115	10,968	11,539	10,438
93 Macclesfield Bank	15,760	15,224	15,503	14,894	14,321
94 Manningtree Bank	7,692	2,867	2,724	2,416	2,535
95 Merionethshire Bank	10,906	9,372	8,852	9,184	8,884
96 Miners' Bank	18,688	15,186	15,028	14,691	14,581
97 Monmouthshire Agricultural and Commercial Bank	29,335	27,820	27,500	29,850	28,083
98 Monmouth Old Bank	16,385	15,466	14,670	14,370	14,900
99 Newark Bank	28,788	26,916	25,271	24,095	23,569
100 Newark and Sleaford Bank	51,615	53,400	49,808	48,471	49,682
101 Newbury Bank	36,787	20,059	19,357	19,035	18,319
102 Newmarket Bank	23,098	18,786	18,588	17,550	17,644
103 Norwich Crown Bank and Norfolk and Suffolk Bank	49,671	48,366	48,679	47,999	47,653
104 Norwich and Norfolk Bank	75,372	71,130	71,664	70,685	70,818
105 Nottingham, Nottinghamshire	10,866	10,743	10,744	10,221	9,986
106 Nunceaton Bank	5,898	3,100	3,123	2,740	2,679
107 Naval Bank, Plymouth	27,321	24,235	24,121	23,903	23,871
108 New Sarum Bk.—Everett & Smith	15,659	11,044	11,454	10,542	10,584
109 Nottingham Bank	31,047	26,647	28,461	28,441	28,435
110 Oswestry Bank	18,471	10,438	10,490	9,897	9,715
111 Oxford Old Bank	34,391	33,790	32,907	33,011	32,892
112 Old Bank, Tonbridge	13,183	9,412	8,785	8,573	8,707
113 Oxfordshire Witney Bank	11,852	10,424	9,931	9,145	9,000
114 Pease's Old Bank, Hull	48,807	46,392	46,371	45,566	45,060
115 Penzance Bank	11,405	10,758	10,602	10,475	10,760
116 Peterborough Bank—Yorke & Co.	12,545	9,630	9,301	9,287	9,349

WEEKLY RETURNS OF BANKS OF ISSUE.

NAME OF BANK.	Authorized Issue.	AVERAGE AMOUNT.			
		May 20.	May 27.	June 3.	June 10.
	£	£	£	£	£
117 Pembrokeshire Bank	12,910	10,742	10,190	10,145	10,163
118 Reading Bank—Simmonds & Co.	37,519	30,132	28,762	28,528	28,507
119 Reading Bk.—Stephens & Blandy	43,271	29,030	28,478	27,482	27,915
120 Richmond Bank, Richmond	6,889	6,466	6,586	6,731	7,008
121 Rochdale Bank	5,590	5,091	4,785	4,611	4,856
122 Rochester, Chatham, & Strood Bk.	10,480	7,404	7,119	6,929	7,004
123 Royston Bank	16,393	13,233	13,808	13,595	13,316
124 Rugby Bank	17,250	11,936	11,490	11,020	10,638
125 Rye Bank	29,864	13,817	13,719	13,836	13,998
126 Ross Old Bank, Herefordshire ...	4,420	4,008	3,855	4,066	4,477
127 Saffron Walden & North Essex Bk.	47,646	26,050	24,679	24,754	24,428
128 Salop Bank	22,338	17,071	16,205	15,825	15,417
129 Scarborough Old Bank	24,813	24,464	24,545	24,145	23,658
130 Shrewsbury Old Bank	43,191	37,742	36,033	36,535	34,841
131 Sittingbourne and Milton Bank...	4,789	2,386	2,532	2,640	2,398
132 Southampton Town & County Bk.	18,589	14,690	14,062	14,054	14,700
133 Southwell Bank	14,744	12,278	12,077	11,719	12,142
134 Southampton and Hampshire Bk.	6,770	3,943	3,616	3,704	3,524
135 Stafford Old Bank	14,166	12,088	11,388	10,822	10,846
136 Stamford and Rutland Bank	31,858	28,328	27,729	27,260	27,088
137 Shrewsbury and Welsh Pool Bank	25,336	23,021	22,482	22,639	23,686
138 Taunton Bank	29,799	24,460	23,074	23,161	24,334
139 Tavistock Bank	13,421	9,271	6,725	4,998	4,467
140 Thornbury Bank	10,026	6,106	5,859	5,934	5,609
141 Tiverton and Devonshire Bank ...	13,470	10,051	9,803	10,087	9,930
142 Thrapstone and Kettering Bank..	11,559	11,350	10,792	11,076	11,407
143 Tring Bank and Chesham Bank..	13,531	12,815	12,852	13,191	12,605
144 Towcester Old Bank	10,801	7,742	7,801	7,560	7,722
145 Town and County of Poole Bk. and Ringwood and Poole Bk.	11,856	10,971	10,994	10,671	10,269
146 Union Bank, Cornwall	17,003	11,817	11,849	12,827	13,348
147 Uxbridge Old Bank	25,136	15,449	14,841	14,953	14,477
148 Wallingford Bank	17,064	8,434	8,703	7,857	8,245
149 Warwick and Warwickshire Bank	30,504	24,200	24,036	23,632	23,396
150 Wellington Bank, Somerset	6,528	2,731	2,748	2,756	2,619
151 West Riding Bank	46,158	45,490	44,889	43,471	44,186
152 Whithy Old Bank	14,258	14,193	13,849	13,914	14,203
153 Winchester, Alresford & Alton Bk.	25,892	19,206	18,672	18,492	17,632
154 Winchester and Hampshire Bank	6,737	3,371	3,371	2,897	
155 Weymouth Old Bank	16,461	15,345	15,735	15,890	15,836
156 Wirksworth and Derbyshire Bk.	37,602	35,929	37,503	37,062	35,887
157 Wisbeach and Lincolnshire Bank	59,713	51,523	48,783	49,099	47,865
158 Wiveliscombe Bank	7,602	7,330	6,877	6,808	6,714
159 Wolverhampton Bk.—Goodricke	14,180	12,355	11,772	11,743	12,782
160 Worcester Bank	15,463	7,854	7,655	7,293	6,987
161 Worcester Old Bank	87,448	66,772	65,046	63,396	62,452
162 Worcestershire Bank	14,309	8,310	8,485	7,914	7,899
163 Wolverham. Bk.—R. & W. Fryer	11,867	11,881	11,763	11,520	11,391
164 Yarmouth and Suffolk Bank	53,060	38,640	37,348	36,916	36,909
165 Yarmouth, Norfolk, & Suffolk Bk.	13,229	10,916	11,405	11,855	11,773
166 York Bank	46,387	45,607	45,485	44,108	43,467

JOINT STOCK BANKS.

1 Bank of Westmoreland	12,225	11,622	11,465	11,643	11,765
2 Barn-ley Banking Company	9,563	9,554	9,389	9,121	8,342
3 Bradford Banking Company	49,292	48,214	46,639	46,543	47,004
4 Bilston District Banking Company	9,418	9,322	8,671	8,016	8,369
5 Bank of Whitehaven	32,681	30,875	31,193	31,841	31,704
6 Bradford Commercial Banking Co.	20,084	20,137	19,635	19,434	20,116
7 Burton, Uttoxeter, and Staffordshire Union Bank	60,701	58,700	57,995	57,140	56,724

WEEKLY RETURNS OF BANKS OF ISSUE.

NAME OF BANK.	Authorized Issue.	AVERAGE AMOUNT.			
		May 20.	May 27.	June 3.	June 10.
	£	£	£	£	£
8 Chesterfield & N. Derbysh. Bk. Co.	10,421	10,038	9,682	9,581	9,868
9 Cumberland Union Banking Co....	35,395	34,687	34,567	35,708	35,374
10 Cheltenham & Gloucestershire Bk. Co.	12,756	10,017	10,065	10,097	9,812
11 Coventry and Warwickshire Bk. Co.	28,734	24,016	22,405	22,353	22,033
12 Coventry Union Banking Company	16,251	16,268	15,500	15,246	14,314
13 County of Gloucester Banking Co.	144,352	108,422	104,474	103,445	103,047
14 Carlisle & Cumberland Banking Co.	25,610	24,880	25,470	26,405	26,624
15 Carlisle City and District Bank ...	19,972	20,410	19,935	19,855	19,269
16 Dudley & West Bromwich Bk. Co.	37,696	37,888	34,802	35,852	37,475
17 Derby and Derbyshire Banking Co.	20,093	19,556	19,840	19,340	18,860
18 Darlington Dist. Joint Stock Bk. Co.	26,134	28,446	25,790	26,323	25,912
19 East of England Bank	25,025	24,534	24,364	24,665	25,196
20 Gloucestershire Banking Company	155,920	151,725	145,628	147,737	145,978
21 Halifax Joint Stock Bank.....	18,534	19,293	18,721	17,492	17,253
22 Huddersfield Banking Company...	37,354	34,892	33,628	32,551	31,188
23 Hull Banking Company	29,333	27,698	27,329	25,262	25,633
24 Halifax Commercial Banking Co...	13,733	13,495	12,971	13,361	13,552
25 Halifax & Huddersfield Union Bk.	44,137	41,978	40,193	41,065	41,070
26 Helston Banking Company	1,503	1,382	1,460	1,480	1,460
27 Herefordshire Banking Company..	25,047	18,703	18,058	16,950	16,321
28 Knaresborough and Claro Bk. Co.	28,059	28,735	28,347	26,520	26,408
29 Kingsbridge Joint Stock Bank	3,952	4,079	3,983	3,625	3,492
30 Lancaster Banking Company	64,311	62,193	62,526	61,443	61,393
31 Leeds Banking Company	23,076	26,171	24,520	21,919	19,664
32 Leicestershire Banking Company...	86,060	82,648	77,663	77,167	73,796
33 Lincoln and Lindsey Banking Co.	51,620	52,008	45,555	45,850	45,987
34 Leamington Priors and Warwick- shire Bank	13,875	11,566	11,715	11,040	11,405
35 Ludlow and Tenbury Bank	10,215	9,550	9,981	9,760	9,930
36 Moore & Robinson's Notts. Bank...	35,813	37,125	36,418	33,189	30,979
37 Nottingham and Notts. Banking Co.	29,477	28,330	27,720	27,434	26,975
38 National Provincial Bk. of England	442,371	419,155	410,831	406,169	401,987
39 North Wilts Banking Company ...	63,939	43,030	42,240	42,095	40,630
40 Northamptonshire Union Bank ...	84,356	74,796	71,295	70,492	70,491
41 Northamptonshire Banking Co. ...	26,401	24,420	23,020	22,785	24,315
42 North and South Wales Bank	63,951	44,388	42,232	41,314	41,410
43 Pare's Leicestershire Banking Co...	59,300	55,063	52,422	50,965	49,301
44 Saddleworth Banking Company ...	8,122	2,363	2,458	2,254	2,183
45 Sheffield Banking Company	35,843	36,298	33,959	33,411	37,415
46 Stamford, Spalding & Boston Bk. Co.	55,721	47,893	51,270	50,683	48,910
47 Stuckey's Banking Company	356,976	337,011	329,227	324,974	320,477
48 Shropshire Banking Company	47,951	45,789	47,419	47,380	46,342
49 Stourbridge and Kidderminster Bk.	56,830	56,631	56,478	57,775	55,951
50 Sheffield and Hallamshire Bank ...	23,524	23,633	21,902	22,881	24,093
51 Sheffield & Rotherham Jt. Stock Bk.	52,496	51,800	53,398	51,686	50,782
52 Swaledale and Wensleydale Bank...	54,372	52,212	51,545	50,699	50,564
53 Storey and Thomas's Bank	9,714	9,053	9,015	10,040	10,360
54 Wolverhampton & Staffordsh. Bk...	35,378	33,447	33,970	36,716	33,402
55 Wakefield and Barnsley Union Bk.	14,604	13,052	12,409	11,512	11,553
56 Whitehaven Joint Stock Bank ...	31,916	30,349	29,750	30,182	29,905
57 Warwick and Leamington Bk. Co.	37,124	31,232	30,332	28,944	29,076
58 West of England and South Wales District Bank	83,535	78,990	76,388	74,298	76,783
59 Wilts & Dorset Banking Company	76,162	70,171	69,742	69,459	67,625
60 West Riding Union Banking Co....	34,029	31,741	31,430	32,960	33,310
61 Whitechurch and Ellesmere Bk. Co.	7,475	4,376	4,265	4,814	4,482
62 Worcester City and County Bk. Co.	6,248	5,828	5,336	5,527	5,248
63 York Union Banking Company ...	71,240	70,927	67,874	66,516	66,600
64 York City and County Banking Co.	94,695	89,944	88,885	88,243	88,283
65 Yorkshire Banking Company	122,532	124,187	122,794	112,484	109,247

SUMMARY OF WEEKLY RETURNS OF BANKS OF ISSUE.

	Fixed Issues.	May 20.	May 27.	June 3.	June 10.
166 Private Banks.....	£4,607,455	£3,837,630	£3,765,817	£3,737,009	£3,700,026
65 Joint Stock Banks..	3,325,857	3,106,936	3,030,183	2,993,741	2,962,017
231 Totals.....	7,933,312	6,944,566	6,796,000	6,730,750	6,662,043

Average Weekly Circulation of these Banks for the month ending June 10th:—

Private Banks	£3,760,120
Joint-Stock Banks	3,023,219

Average Weekly Circulation of Private and Joint-Stock Banks ending as above £6,783,339

On a comparison of the above with the Returns for the month ending 13th May last, it shows:—

A decrease in the notes of Private Banks, of	£189,906
A decrease in the notes of Joint-Stock Banks, of	111,969
Total decrease on the month.....	£301,875

And as compared with the month ending 11th June, 1853, it shows—

An increase in the notes of Private Banks, of	£1,806
A decrease in the notes of Joint-Stock Banks, of	17,930

Total decrease, as compared with the same period of last year

The following is the comparative state of the circulation, as regards the fixed issues—

The Private Banks are below their fixed issues	£847,335
The Joint-Stock Banks are below their fixed issues.....	302,638

Total BELOW the fixed issues

Irish and Scotch Circulation Returns.

Average Circulation, and Coin held by the IRISH and SCOTCH BANKS during the four weeks ending Saturday, the 10th day of June, 1854.

IRISH BANKS.

NAME OF BANK.	Authorised Circulation.	Average Circulation during Four Weeks, ending as above.			Average Amt. of Gold & Silver Coin held during Four Weeks ending as above.
		£5 and upwards.	Under £5.	Total.	
Bank of Ireland	3,738,428	1,925,400	1,202,350	3,127,750	838,883
Provincial Bank of Ireland	927,667	341,657	529,909	871,566	245,446
Belfast Bank	281,611	60,351	365,866	426,217	223,238
Northern Bank	243,440	35,458	218,804	254,263	83,887
Ulster Bank	311,079	51,597	373,405	425,003	141,700
National Bank of Ireland...	761,757	434,993	565,175	1,000,169	378,254
Carrick-on-Suir Nat. Bank	24,084	9,275	13,267	22,542	4,975
Clonmel National Bank ...	66,428	25,991	26,787	52,778	11,369
TOTALS (Irish Banks) ...	6,354,494	2,884,722	3,295,563	6,180,288	1,927,752

SCOTCH BANKS.

Bank of Scotland	300,485	143,560	282,762	426,322	164,431
Boyal Bank of Scotland ...	183,000	77,117	123,548	200,666	52,494
British Linen Company	438,024	213,066	340,192	553,259	172,180
Commercial Bk. of Scotland	374,880	179,716	353,811	533,527	225,598
National Bank of Scotland..	297,024	119,877	240,972	360,849	94,217
Union Bank of Scotland and Banking Com. in Aberdeen	415,690	182,607	357,539	540,146	170,820
Edinburgh & Glasgow Bk...	136,657	66,151	99,882	166,033	41,939
Aberdeen Town and Co. Bk.	70,133	45,117	75,471	120,588	52,904
North of Scotland Bk. Co...	154,319	115,957	118,656	234,613	87,021
Dundee Banking Company ..	33,451	13,822	26,181	40,003	8,298
Eastern Bank of Scotland...	33,636	19,896	24,678	44,574	12,262
Western Bank of Scotland...	337,938	159,525	403,491	563,016	279,925
Clydesdale Banking Co. ...	104,028	40,225	105,186	145,411	61,410
City of Glasgow Bank	72,921	82,345	107,304	189,649	130,071
Caledonian Banking Co. ...	53,434	27,288	54,097	81,385	34,796
Perth Banking Company ...	38,656	20,688	34,491	55,180	21,348
Central Bank of Scotland...	42,933	23,333	40,543	63,877	24,726
TOTALS (Scotch Banks)...	3,087,209	1,530,290	2,788,804	4,319,098	1,634,440

CIRCULATION RETURNS.

SUMMARY OF IRISH & SCOTCH RETURNS TO JUNE 10, 1854.

The Returns of Circulation of the Irish and Scotch Banks for the four weeks ending 10th June, when added together, give the following as the average weekly circulation of these banks during the past month, viz:—

Average Circulation of the Irish Banks... £6,180,288
Average Circulation of the Scotch Banks 4,319,098

Total Average Circulation of these Banks for the past month £10,499,386

On comparing these amounts with the Returns for the month ending 13th May last, they show—

Decrease in the Circulation of Irish Banks £405,232
Increase in the Circulation of Scotch Banks 351,492

Total decrease on the month..... £53,740

And as compared with the month ending June 11th, 1853, they show—

Increase in the Circulation of Irish Banks £814,120
Increase in the Circulation of Scotch Banks 292,873

Total increase on the year..... 1,106,993

The fixed issues of the Irish and Scotch Banks at the present time are given in the *Banking Almanac*, as follows:—

8 Banks in Ireland, allowed to issue... £6,354,494
18 Banks in Scotland, allowed to issue .. 3,067,309

26 Banks in all, allowed to issue..... £9,441,793

The following appears, therefore, to be the comparative state of the circulation:—

Irish Banks are below their fixed issue .. £174,206
Scotch Banks are above their fixed issue 1,231,899

Total above the fixed issue £1,057,689

The amounts of Gold and Silver held at the head offices of the several banks, during the past month, have been as follows:—

Gold and Silver held by the Irish Banks £1,927,753
Gold and Silver held by the Scotch Banks 1,634,440

Total of Gold and Silver Coin £3,562,193

Being a decrease of £102,777 on the part of the Irish Banks, and an increase of £173,247 on the part of the Scotch Banks, on the several amounts held by them during the preceding month.

CIRCULATION OF THE UNITED KINGDOM TO JUNE 10, 1854.

The following is the state of the Note Circulation of the United Kingdom, for the month ending the 10th June, 1854.

Circulation of Notes for the Month ending June 10th, as compared with the previous month:

	May 13.	June 10.	Increase.	Decrease.
Bank of England	£21,908,951	£20,458,260	—	£1,410,691
Private Banks	3,950,026	3,760,120	—	189,906
Joint Stock Banks	3,135,188	3,023,219	—	111,969
Total in England	28,994,165	27,281,599	—	1,712,566
Scotland	3,967,606	4,319,098	351,492	—
Ireland	6,585,520	6,180,388	—	405,232
United Kingdom.....	39,547,291	37,780,985	351,492	2,117,798

The comparison of the month ending June 11th, 1853, with the month ending June 10th, 1854, shows a decrease in the Bank of England circulation of £2,435,565, an increase in Private Banks of £1,806, and a decrease in Joint Stock Banks of £17,930; being a total decrease in England of £2,449,689; while in Scotland there is an increase of £292,873; and in Ireland an increase of £814,120. Thus showing that the month ending 10th June, as compared with the same period last year, presents a decrease of £2,449,689 in England, and a decrease of £1,342,696 in the United Kingdom.

The return of Bullion in the Bank of England, for the month ending June 10th, gives an aggregate amount in both departments of £12,683,255. On a comparison of this with the Return for the month ending May 13th, there appears to be a decrease of £173,611; and a decrease of £5,473,875 as compared with the same period last year.

The stock of specie held by the Banks in Scotland and Ireland during the month ending 10th June, was £3,562,192; being an increase of £70,470 as compared with the return of the previous month, and an increase of £887,028 as compared with the corresponding period last year.

THE BANKERS' MAGAZINE,

AND

Journal of the Money Market.

AUGUST, 1854.

THE LATE MERCANTILE DEFAULTS.

CONSIDERABLE discussion has been created by the unpleasant revelations made in connection with the late mercantile failures. Three firms appear to have been mixed up in the transactions now under judicial inquiry, all of which have suspended with heavy liabilities, whilst the prospect of assets are of the most uncertain character. Apart, however, from the allegation of reckless trading, which, under any circumstances, must attach to the parties implicated, there is the more serious charge preferred against some of them of having brought into circulation a large quantity of fictitious warrants, by which they have been able to sustain their credit, far beyond the limit of their legitimate resources. The discovery has terminated, as might have been anticipated, in the bankruptcy and flight of the active principals; but one has been apprehended, who will have to explain the nature of his share in the proceedings, before a criminal tribunal.

The only parallel cases in this country with these financial frauds—for such they must undoubtedly be designated—are those of the notorious Exchequer bill issues and the Customs delinquencies, both of which formed the subject of lengthened investigation before they were finally arranged. The malpractices of Pries and Anderson, though more recent, and assimilating in some degree with the allegations made against Messrs. Davidson and Gordon, Messrs. Cole Brothers, and their asso-

ciates, differ in the absence of the essential element of the complicity of other parties—the former having been compelled to rely upon their individual exertions to maintain the deception which they had originated, and which they temporarily so successfully completed. In the present instance, on the contrary, if all be true that is averred, little other than a conspiracy has existed among two or three houses, to support their failing fortunes, at the expense of those who had placed confidence in them, their victims little dreaming that fraud would be employed to give apparent validity to their transactions.

It is almost unsafe to venture free utterance on a topic so fraught with danger to the interests of the mercantile community at large (especially in a period of semi-monetary pressure, embarrassed and surrounded as we are by the contingencies of a war); but such conduct certainly deserves the severest reprobation, and should be visited with the punishment which it so richly merits. The circumstances are of the most flagrant description. Here are individuals who, notwithstanding their misfortunes in the crisis of 1847–48, having been once more restored to credit, seem unable to proceed in a quiet and cautious manner, but must plunge into the most extensive speculations, and when these decline, avail themselves of the confidence they have created, by raising supplies on spurious produce warrants.

The individuals really aggrieved are the unfortunate bankers and bill brokers who, lulled into security through the reputed success of their astute clients, have been entrapped into advancing their hard money on these worthless documents; but the public have also been greatly aggrieved, the confidence usually placed in the integrity of mercantile honour having sustained a shock from which it will take some time to recover.

Doubts have been expressed in some quarters whether the extraordinary facilities of credit have not presented ready means for the perpetration of these frauds; and it has been said that the antecedents of two firms in particular should have inspired greater vigilance than appears to have been exercised. There is probably some truth in this; but the subterfuge sought of making a wharfinger a party to the transactions, through whose instrumentality the warrants were issued, and if needs be substantiated, imparted such a *primâ facie* reality to the whole business, as to deprive the usual checks of inquiry, &c., of their full force and efficiency. It was imprudent, however, not to have watched the course of these operations; for, spread as they have been over two years, it could have hardly escaped observation that the inflation of this species of trading had assumed an aspect unwarranted by its original position.

Facilities for credit must indeed have been possessed when it

is stated that the engagements of one firm represent nearly three-quarters of a million, and those of the other little short of £400,000. Do these limits exhibit a legitimate range of trading acquired within a space of about six years from the date of a previous insolvency? No answer is surely required. The facts speak for themselves, and show at once the hollowness of the system. This laxity—for laxity there must be somewhere—is unfortunately encouraged, by the competition existing, to do business at any rate and any risk, without due regard being paid to the capacities of the parties for their pursuits, or the resources they can command to support their credit.

It is scarcely credible that these delinquencies can be effected in the open heart of this metropolis; and yet they every now and then take place, and are occasionally repeated in the transient phases of trade. Large accommodation transactions in the case of Mr. Lackersteen (who, by the way, was another revival of the 1847–48 school), brought heavy condemnation on his head; but he escaped the judgment of the Court of Bankruptcy, by leaving the country. From accommodation paper we now pass to complicated fraud to support credit, and conducted in such a manner that, were it not for the system, it would be difficult to believe that in the first instance it was ever contemplated to carry it to the extent to which it has reached. In this last stage it is, however, discovered with its worst features; the very course adopted being calculated to destroy all faith reposed between man and man.

The accommodation which in mercantile usage is derived from obtaining advances on produce warrants, is appreciated as a great advantage, and in financial circles their security has hitherto been undoubted. The effect of frauds of this character in creating distrust, may therefore be speedily estimated; and when an organised system is presented by which even a greater amount of mischief might have been perpetrated, the consequences assume a more alarming appearance. In dealing with the parties implicated, it is to be hoped that no false delicacy will be suffered to interpose, to screen from merited opprobrium those who in the remotest degree have been connected with the doubtful operations now brought to light; and that a searching investigation is requisite to trace this system of villainy to its proper source, is rendered evident by an extract from a daily contemporary, respecting a recent trial in which Messrs. Davidson and Gordon have figured:—

“An action was brought on a bill of exchange for £496 16s. 8d., drawn by Davidson and Gordon on Richard Parris and Co., distillers, &c., Back-lane (or street), St. George's-in-the-East, and the defence to the action was that the acceptance was not that of the firm, and was a forgery. Mr. Parris appeared

to prove the forgery, but on cross-examination admitted that he had nothing to do with the distillery; that he was carrying on the works of a cork-cutting invention of his for a Mr. De Russett; and that he lent his name to this person for two guineas a-week, to carry on the distillery business. Probably something more might have been extracted from the unhappy man; but, overwhelmed, we hope, by a sense of shame at his position, 'He staggered in the witness-box, reeled, and fell, striking his head with alarming force against the floor of the court.' The event produced a deep sensation, and he was ordered by Lord Campbell to be put aside. The other witness to prove the forgery was Mr. George Harris De Rusett, who confirmed the evidence of Parris as to the use of his name, and deposed that the distillery business was carried on in his sole interest, although his name did not appear. He described himself as a private gentleman, as having been a general merchant at Calcutta, and made a large fortune, and did not like to have his name put up over the distillery. At the same time he is in business as a general merchant, as appears also by the 'Directory,' in Birch-in-lane. He had never opened an account at Masterman's, where the bill was made payable, in his own name—had never authorised any other person to do so, and had never accepted any bill in the name of Richard Parris and Co., though he was the sole person interested in the concern. He denied that he had been a barber in India. His clerk deposed that the acceptance was neither in Mr. De Rusett's handwriting, nor in that of Parris. The jury, however, refused their confidence to Parris, to Mr. De Rusett and his clerk, and found a verdict for the plaintiff."

British merchants in the company of such characters as Parris and De Russett—real types of the West Middlesex epoch, and charged (though fortunately the jury by their decision negatived the imputation) with the negotiation of forged bills of exchange! Amidst the variety of reports afloat, there is much that will require explanation; and until the whole affair shall have been sifted to the bottom, it is not to be expected that the trading community will be relieved from the very serious stigma cast upon it by these suspicious occurrences.

While penning these remarks, attention has been attracted to the panic in the New York stock market, occasioned by the fraudulent operations of Mr. Robert Schuyler. The excitement lately evident in our financial circles has thus, unhappily, been only too strongly reflected in those of our transatlantic neighbours, through equally important though different channels. The surreptitious issue of the certificates of the New York and New Haven Railway, by which the company will be compromised to the amount of £400,000, and the subsequent announcement of similar frauds in other undertakings—the aggregate representing £2,300,000—has been productive of a declension in prices averaging from 30 to 50 per cent.; and at the latest date, the position of financial affairs was generally unsettled. The failures of Messrs. R. and G. S. Schuyler, Messrs. De Launy, Iselin and Clark, and others, of New York, and Messrs. Willis and Co., of Boston, have spread terror throughout the States; and a restoration to confidence, as in our own case, will be a matter of greater difficulty than many suppose. Mr. Robert Schuyler

who, in his double capacity as president and transfer agent of the New York and New Haven Railway, possessed the opportunity of serving his own convenience at the expense of his fellow-shareholders, is described as the Hudson of the American railway interest; but his expedients to support his favourite securities have been of a more daring description than those of his great English prototype.

THE LAW OF PARTNERSHIP.

IN our last, we gave an epitome of the report of the commissioners appointed to inquire into the law of partnership, and of the opinions of many leading men and of Chambers of Commerce, for and against the establishment of the principle of limited liability. We also gave a summary of the arguments of two of the ablest and most eminent of the advocates of the present system—Lord Overstone and Mr. W. G. Prescott. In this number, we propose to place before our readers some of the anomalies in the present law of partnership, to give a brief sketch of the *commandite* system; to notice the main arguments used in the debate on Mr. Collien's motion, in the House of Commons; and in the dissertations of some of the commissioners prefixed to the evidence; and to draw attention to a pamphlet, recently published by Mr. Warner, M.P., "On the Impolicy of the Partnership Law."

Several of the commissioners and numerous witnesses state, that the present law of partnership is in a most unsatisfactory condition. Mr. Brannell, Q.C., one of the commissioners, says (Blue Book, p. 27)—"It is impossible for any law to be in a worse condition than our law of partnership." Mr. Warner, in the above-mentioned pamphlet, says—"In the law of partnership we stand almost alone in the civilised world, and are scarcely less at variance with those principles which we act upon and advocate in other commercial questions. We have swept away one obstacle after another to the freedom of mercantile intercourse; we have set the example, and challenged the world to open competition, and yet our own people are denied the freedom of contract and partnership." Mr. Lowe, M.P., is of a similar opinion. There are, certainly, some very grievous and obvious anomalies in it. Without entering into any legal disquisition of, or touching upon, technicalities, we will point out a few. In the last edition of *Chitty upon Contracts* (page 219), several cases upon this head are cited. That of *Waugh v. Cannen* is alluded to by some of the commissioners. Now, the principle laid down in *Waugh v. Cannen* was this—that third persons are partners, with unlimited liability, if they share the profits of a concern, although they may have expressly stipulated for exemption from losses. It has been held, that an executor, who continued his executor's share in a concern for the benefit of the infant child of the deceased, and who carried the receipts of the business to the account of the infant, *taking no part of the profits himself, was per-*

sonally liable to those who became creditors after the testator's death, although his name was not added to the firm. In a case reported in Bingham (8 v., p. 469), where W. advanced to S. and S., who were then carrying on business in partnership, the sum of £24,000, and all three executed a deed, by which a joint stock was created, but W. was not to have any definite proportion of profits, but was to have an account of the profits as between themselves, so as to get £2,000 or £2,400 a-year, as the case might be, out of the clear profits, it was held that *although W.'s name never appeared to the world as a partner, yet he was liable as such.*

In the case of *Drake v. Beckham*, reported in 11 Meeson and Welshby, A, B and C were in partnership as type founders, C being a dormant partner. A and B entered into a written agreement with Drake to employ him as a foreman in the business for a certain term, and at certain wages. It was held in the Court of Exchequer that Drake, the plaintiff, could maintain an action against A, B and C on this agreement, for a wrongful dismissal from their service, *although at the time the agreement was entered into the plaintiff did not know that C was a partner, and although he was not named in, and had not signed such an agreement.* In short, the principle held by courts of law in this respect is, that a nominal partner is liable to an unlimited extent, though the person who trusts the concerns of which he is a member may not have heard of his existence at the time the debt was contracted. Mr. McCulloch, in his *Commercial Dictionary*, after consulting the best authorities, lays it down that a partnership is constituted by a participation in uncertain profits and losses. If a clerk stipulate for a share of the profits as a reward for his labour, he becomes responsible as a partner, and "no private arrangement can cancel his liability." And again, the mere participation in the profits of any business or adventure without even a participation in the losses, constitutes a partnership, rendering the individual liable to third parties for all the engagements of the concern, *though as between the parties themselves it may be no partnership.* Lord Mansfield, in the case of *Young v. Axtell*, laid it down that a nominal partner is liable, though the plaintiff did not at the time of the dealing know that he was a partner, or that his name was so used. Nor is it an easy matter for a partner desiring to retire, to rid himself of the liabilities of the concern. It has been held that a mere notice of dissolution in the *Gazette* is not sufficient, though he has retired; if he continues to take a part of the profits, his liability remains. Mr. McCulloch lays it down that a partner, to free himself from liability, must not only advertise the dissolution in the *Gazette*, but send a specific intimation of his retiring to all individuals accustomed to deal with the firm. And upon reference to the last edition of *Starkie's Evidence*, we find this opinion upheld by several cases, especially by that of *Kinewan v. Kinewan*, 2 Crompton and Meeson, 617. With respect to the abstract question of partnership liability, it does certainly seem that no man ought to be liable to pay for a contract unless he authorised that person to make the contract, or unless he had represented him as so authorised. Lord Overstone, in speaking of the

advantage of the present law of unlimited liability as restraining reckless speculation, said that a man looked twice before he joined any undertaking the failure of which might cause his entire destruction. Upon this assertion, in the recent debate in the House of Commons, Mr. Leveson Gower commented with great force. He said he would go further than Lord Overstone, and "contend that a man was no better than a gambler or a madman who would risk his whole fortune in an enterprise of which he had not the whole management." This happy mode of using the *reductio ad absurdum* argument was followed by an expression of opinion "that the law ought to be so that any two or more persons might join in a partnership on any conditions they thought fit, and that all the law had to do was to secure the publicity of those conditions." Lord Goderich in the same debate instanced the case of a man who had made a most useful invention; and though many were most desirous of joining him in working out the patent, yet none would, being deterred by the fear of the unlimited liability of our partnership law; so the invention was lost to the public. Mr. Warner says, that "the law of unlimited liability imposes restrictions on trade which affect in different ways every class in the community; that the result is most injurious to each; that it impedes the material progress, and weakens the political position of the nation; and that it cannot be defended on the ground of state expediency, of natural justice, or of presumptive right." He observes that "it is an undeniable fact all inventions and new processes come from abroad." And again, he observes "instances have occurred where plans for building wholesome lodging-houses for the labouring classes in towns, and similar undertakings of acknowledged importance, have fallen to the ground, because in order to raise the funds it would have been necessary to limit the liability, while the expenses of securing a charter for this purpose would have been wholly out of proportion to the proposed capital." The redundancy of unemployed capital, he contends, is one of the results of our partnership restrictions, and operates most injuriously in the establishment of fishery companies, where the maritime genius of the people could be most usefully developed, and in the working of our mines, where millions of wealth lie buried. He also contends that the effect of the present law is to drive capital away from this country, and to encourage foreign loans, which have proved so disastrous in many cases. "At the present moment," he says, "when the nation is preparing for apparently inevitable war [the pamphlet was published at the commencement of the present year], and calculating the means and difficulties of raising the necessary supplies, it is no cause for satisfactory reflection that we have already advanced to our antagonist the enormous funds which were required to provide for the maintenance of his troops." It seems quite certain that the law, as it now stands, is doomed. It is curious to perceive how gradually, but certainly, the force of public opinion has been brought to bear on this question. Nearly twenty years ago a committee was appointed by the House of Commons, which reported that it was not expedient to alter the law. In 1844 Mr. Slaney's committee was appointed. In 1851 there was another com-

mittee, which reported in favour of a partial change in the law. Last session the subject was again discussed, and a commission appointed. In the meantime innumerable pamphlets had been published on the subject, generally in favour of limited liability; and *The Times* took up the question, and, with its usual ability, argued in favour of this principle. On the 27th of June last the question was debated in the House of Commons, and the following resolution agreed to without a division:—

“That the law of partnership, which renders every person who, though not an ostensible partner, shares the profits of a trading concern, liable to the whole of its debts, is unsatisfactory, and should be so far modified as to permit persons to contribute to the capital of such concerns on terms of sharing their profits, without incurring liability beyond a limited amount.”

We now proceed to give a sketch of the *commandite* system, which had its origin in those Italian republics where commerce once rose to such a height. It is said to have been acted upon in Venice, Genoa, and Florence, then to have extended to France and Holland, in which latter country those great works, by which large tracts of land were rescued from the sea, were carried out by the agency of this principle. It made its way to Germany, is not unknown in Russia, and finally reached the United States, where it flourishes with greater vigour than elsewhere.

Limited partnership, as it exists in foreign nations, appears to be of three kinds:—the *société anonyme*, or authorised joint-stock company; the *société en commandite par actions*—a society for carrying on some general business with a responsible manager or managers, and a capital represented by shares which are transferable to bearer, and may therefore be passed from hand to hand; and lastly, the *commandite simple nominative*, which is the best known of the several forms of partnership with limited liability, and the most commonly resorted to. From the best-informed sources in the Blue-book, we proceed to give a sketch of the *commandite* system.

Persons are enabled, without the authority of Parliament or of any other tribunal, but merely by arrangement amongst themselves, to form companies, upon making publication thereof. The *gérants*, or general partners, exclusively manage the business, and are liable universally for the debts of the partnership. The special partners, or *commanditaires*, contribute a certain amount of funds, but take no ostensible part in its management, and are consequently no further liable for any of its debts. The conditions of partnership *en commandite* are, that the contract of partnership be in writing, and specify the name of the company, the nature of the business, the name of the general or managing partner or partners, the amounts of the sums to be contributed by the special partners, and the date of the commencement and termination of the partnership; that the contract of partnership be advertised; that no special partner act ostensibly in the management of the business, either as partner or as agent for the company, although he may give his advice to the general partners, and

may, by judicial proceedings, restrain him from applying the funds to purposes other than those of the partnership; that the property be divided at stated times; that the partnership shall not be dissolved before the termination of a stipulated period; and that, in the event of any of the conditions being contravened, either by what is forbidden being done, or by what is directed to be done by any of the partners being omitted, the special partner shall forfeit his immunity. Such is a general outline of the *commandite* system as it exists in America, France, and other nations.

Amongst the advantages which it is contended would arise from the establishment of limited liability, would be the abolition of all the monopolies now enjoyed by great trading companies, by the establishment of competition; as for instance, in the conveyances of the mails to India, to the West India islands, and to our remote dependencies. It is remarked by one of the commissioners who is adverse to the establishment of limited liability on a general scale, that the cost of each screw or paddle steamer that conveys the mails is from £30,000 to £80,000; that a fleet of "Himalayas" is entirely beyond the reach of individual enterprise: that such a fleet can only be built by a joint-stock company, which company at present practically enjoys a monopoly; and that here the law of unlimited liability operates detrimentally to the interests of the nation. Mr. Slater mentions the case of a young man at Glasgow, who, on the strength of a good character, started in business without capital, and having obtained credit to the extent of £400,000, failed. This case Mr. Slater attempts to use as an illustration of the facility of contracting obligations under the present law; and then argues that, so far from making credit easier, it ought rather to be checked. But this sword would seem to cut both ways, and the advocates of limited liability would no doubt use it thus. When the creditors of this person trusted him, they had no means of testing his solvency; they trusted him upon common rumour, which a philosopher calls a common liar; had they trusted a limited liability firm, they had but to go to the registration office, ascertain who were the special and who the *commandite* partners, and trust or not trust as they thought fit, and at all events they could not be in a worse position than under the present law. It might be argued, too, that the results of the commercial crisis in 1847 and 1848 did not very happily exemplify the advantages of our existing code; for firms which had been for many years accounted amongst the highest in the metropolis, fell to pieces like houses of cards; and inquiry showed that some of them had been in a state of utter insolvency for a long period. Mr. Slater's observation, that "after all, credit is but capital in another shape," seems a singular one. Some people might think that capital was the substance and credit—at least, in many instances, the shadow. When a former member for Dublin (Mr. Reynolds) in glowing terms eulogised credit, the late Sir Robert Peel, amid the cheers of the house, told the hon. member that "he would rather have his capital than his credit any day." One of the main arguments used against limited liability is, that it would injuriously affect creditors. It is said, one creditor who is

about to trust a *commandite* concern with a thousand pounds' worth of goods, may ascertain the amount of subscribed capital of the firm; but how is he to know that nineteen other creditors have not trusted them about the same time to the same amount? To this the advocates of the system would doubtless answer by asking if the same objection did not apply with equal force to unlimited partnerships? and they would add, that the special partners—not to speak of the *commanditaires*—had the same results to dread from insolvency; and were animated by the same hopes of gain; and that, *prima facie*, there was no greater reason for supposing one set of men to be less honest or more knavish than the other. In the case of the Glasgow trader, above instanced by Mr. Slater, it would be held that were he a general partner, or *gérant*, in a *commandite* firm, not only would he be liable for the £400,000, but his fellow general partners likewise, to their last shilling and their last acre; and that, besides this, there would be the actually subscribed capital of the *commanditaires*, whereas, according to Mr. Slater's own showing, this gentleman commenced without any capital at all. In a *commandite* firm there *must* be an actual tangible capital at starting; whereas, it must be admitted (indeed the balance sheets daily filed in the Bankruptcy Court prove it beyond all question), traders frequently commence business, in partnership and otherwise, not only without a capital, but under very heavy liabilities. In short, the case quoted by Mr. Slater only proves that under the present system credit is unwisely given, which, logically speaking, is nothing to the purpose.

It is also argued that knowledge and skill are, under the present system, not the least important part of the capital, and that it is from these, rather than from mere capital, profit is to be derived; but to make this argument available, it must be shown that knowledge and skill would not be exercised under limited liability, which, it is needless to say, its advocates will by no means admit. On the contrary, they point with triumph to the United States of America, France, and Holland, where such qualities in *commandite* concerns are eminently conspicuous. Under the *commandite* system all the partners become co-owners of the goods or funds acquired on credit from third parties. Were the *gérant* to become bankrupt in consequence of private speculations on his own account or otherwise, whilst the partnership remained solvent, the whole stock would not pass to the creditors, but only the *gérant's* rateable share of the free surplus thereof which might remain after paying off the proper partnership debts. Mr. Glyn, in the debate in the House of Commons, in arguing against the adoption of the principle of limited liability, urged the present state of our bankruptcy code, which, he said, was "so odious that the bankruptcy courts were deserted." It appears (and it is used as an objection to the system) that a *commanditaire* partner cannot do any thing to retrieve the misfortunes or to promote the prosperity of the company. He cannot dissolve the company during the period stipulated for its subsistence, however much he may be dissatisfied with or suspicious of his managing partner, if the latter do not actually transgress the stipulations of the contract, or rather, if he does not know and cannot prove

that the *gérant* has done so. Another objection urged against the *commandite* system, is the difficulty of ascertaining the position of the concern with a view to the division of profits. Estimates of profits, it is said, must be, to a great extent, conjectural; and subsequent to depreciation, may so reduce the value of the stock that a profit may become a loss. *Commanditaire* partners may become universally liable if they draw the "profits" out of the capital of the concern. But, notwithstanding these and other objections, the advocates of limited liability point with triumph to what it has accomplished in this country—our railways, canals, docks, bridges, harbours, and the Crystal Palace itself, having been carried into indirect contravention of our partnership laws, and which would have deterred men from engaging in such undertakings. Moreover, the advocates of limited liability point with triumph to the Bank of Scotland, the Royal Bank, and the British Linen Company, which have not only flourished upon that principle, but have been eminently instrumental in developing the agriculture, manufactures, and commerce of that part of the United Kingdom; and they declare that the establishment of this principle by the authority of Parliament, is necessary fully to develop the resources of the kingdom, and to raise its grandeur and greatness to that culminating glory which destiny has marked out for it, and that it is necessary to consummate the destruction of that monopoly which is contrary to the great charter itself.

THE HARVEST OF 1854.

THERE has seldom been a period when the preceding topic has been more suggestive of material for thought and caution. The deficient harvest of 1853—the somewhat late and critical character of the harvest of 1854—the war—the progressive development of the precious metals, and the application of improved machinery to their discovery—all call for notice, if we would arrive at a correct estimate of our position. In advert- ing, in our last August number, to the former of these circumstances, we recorded the opinion of a correspondent, that the wheat crop of 1853 in his district would be not less than a third deficient; and stated that, although we could not consider the average deficiency of the country at so high a scale, yet it was, beyond all question, of so serious a character, as to render necessary an importation of no less a quantity than 18,000,000 of quarters during the year, and, concurrently therewith, a higher range of prices for wheat and other agricultural produce in Mark Lane and Smithfield, and corresponding advance in the rate of interest of money in Lombard Street. As the extent of the deficiency, consequent upon the gathering and thrashing of the harvest, became more developed, it was quite evident that prices would advance; and it was generally thought that wheat would, during the ensuing year, touch the high price of 100s. per quarter. How far this opinion was warranted, time has since shown. The average price

of wheat during the year 1851, was 38*s.* 6*d.* per quarter; in 1852, 40*s.* 11*d.* per quarter; in 1853, 53*s.* 3*d.* per quarter; whilst that for 1854 will, probably, not fall short of from 65*s.* to 70*s.* per quarter. Indeed, if the quality of the wheat of 1854, as compared with that of 1851, were taken into account, the actual difference in value between the figures 38*s.* 6*d.* and 70*s.* would be still more strikingly apparent. The quality of the wheat sold in 1854 (as is usually the case after a bad harvest) has been of a very varied character. Hence, we read in an agricultural report, of wheat having been sold on the same day, and in the same market, at the respective prices of 60*s.* and 84*s.* per quarter; and, as a further illustration of the point, we might instance cases that have incidentally come to our knowledge, in which a parcel of 22½ quarters of fine old wheat has been sold at Burton-upon-Trent, at the rate of 100*s.* per quarter; and a parcel of the growth of 1853, by respectable parties at Kirk Langley, Derbyshire, at the same figure.

That, under such a state of things, the prices of oats and beans—although the crops in 1853 of these descriptions of grain were of an average character—should have almost correspondingly advanced, will not appear strange, if we take into consideration one or two points. The high price of wheaten bread gradually impelled the bakers in our manufacturing, rural, and poorer districts, to have recourse largely to the aid of oat and bean flour; and instances have occurred of an amusing character, in which even first-class bakers of the metropolis, who have uniformly avowed that they never used a single oat for that purpose, or so much as kept one upon their premises, have been convinced of their “mistake” by the production of one of their own loaves containing a few very fine specimens of oats in their entire form! Thus, whilst the price of wheat and wheaten bread has been happily kept from attaining an absolutely famine price, it has only been by means of a recourse to the ordinary stocks of other kinds of grain; and there cannot, we believe, be two opinions upon the point which must necessarily form, as it were, the threshold of any inquiry touching the consequences of a new harvest—namely, the extent of the stock remaining from the harvests that have passed.

This day twelve months, we felt justified in recording our opinion, that the accumulated stock of grain in the hands of our farmers was “unusually large.” This day, we regret we can only feel justified in estimating it as unusually small. We further fear, that for the words, “the stock of our farmers,” we might substitute the words, “the stock of Europe, if not of the world.” If this were not so, prices must necessarily have given way, to a greater degree, in the face of an immediate harvest. It cannot be safely anticipated, or even speculated upon, by any prudent holder of grain, that prices will not recede from their present very high standard, after the gathering of the harvest of 1854. The very scanty supply of wheat latterly from Essex—the almost total cessation of supply from Lincolnshire—the evidence that we possess of the literal exhaustion of supply of oats from Scotland and other parts—alike show that the home stock of grain was never at a

lower standard. That of France may, in some degree, be inferred from the fact of the period for the prohibition of exports having been extended to the 31st of December, 1854, and the continued permission of free imports. On an aggregate, we cannot but consider the foregoing estimate of the stock of the world as fully warranted.

To turn our attention from the past to the future, we may first notice our home agricultural prospects. The autumn seed time was wet and unfavourable: hence, under any circumstances, wheat must be irregular and but thin upon the ground. The character of the winter, and the dry season that has prevailed during the first six months of 1854 (the quantity of rain fallen during this period having been only 6 inches, as compared with $13\frac{1}{2}$ inches during the same period of 1853), have, to some extent, counterbalanced the effect of the autumn seed time. We hear but little of "blight;" and though the ears of grain are less numerous, they promise a large yield. The breadth sown, it may further be observed, is beyond the usual average. The advantages consequent upon the unusually favourable character of the spring seed time, have, we fear, been since more than counterbalanced by the subsequent drought and low temperature. Upon some soils, the rain has come too late to be of much service; and we fear that there will, on the aggregate, be a deficiency in the spring crops. Unquestionably, there will be so on all the cold clay soils. There will generally be a failure of straw, and, in some few instances, there will be neither straw nor corn. The failure will be found more particularly in the article of oats. Of potatoes, there is a prospect alike of an improved quality and an extraordinary quantity. Of hay, there will be a serious deficiency; and, following as that does upon a year's produce of very inferior quality, we cannot look forward to any other than a high range of prices for meat and cheese. In the article of hops, there will be a serious failure. Of course, much will depend upon the state of the weather during the critical period of six weeks or two months that have to elapse from the time we write; but, assuming it to be of an average character, we should feel inclined to give the following estimate of the year's home produce:—

Wheat	...	Nine-tenths of an average.
Rye	...	An average.
Barley	...	Almost an average.
Oats	...	Seven-eighths to nine-tenths of an average.
Beans	...	An average.
Potatoes	...	One-fourth beyond an average.
Hay	...	Three-fourths of an average.
Turnips	...	One-fourth beyond an average.
Meat	...	Five-sixths of an average.
Cheese	...	One-fourth under an average.
Hops	...	Greatly under an average.

We give this estimate as the result of a very careful examination of the agricultural reports of the entire kingdom, including those of our own correspondents. Should it be considered too high an estimate, we may remark that our correspondent in Scotland furnishes us with

information that would warrant one of a still higher character. Should it be considered as too low an estimate, we may remark that one of our correspondents in England writes as follows :—

“Wheat varies considerably. On strong, retentive and undrained clay soils there will not be anything like an average crop—say two-thirds. The light soils are quite an average, but not more. Much of the seed wheat sown last autumn was in a very bad condition, from the wetness of the season, and the imperfect maturity of the corn from the want of sun ; this, combined with the coldness of the land from continual rains, destroyed the germinating property of the seed. On land of the above description, a third of the seed thus perished, leaving the deficiency to be made up by the process of “stooling,” which only partially occurred, from the want of rain in the earlier spring months. Spring sown corn, particularly oats and barley, on strong land, did not vegetate kindly, being of several growths. The samples will thus be coarse, and the yield deficient. On light soils, there will be an average both in quality and quantity. Of hay, there will be a great deficiency ; I should say a third less than last year, and a fourth less than an average. The same may be said of the produce of cheese up to this time.”

This correspondent, we may remark, was subsequently present at the Royal Agricultural Society's meeting at Lincoln, on the 19th of July, and found no cause to change his estimate, after the opportunity thus afforded of ascertaining the opinions of agriculturists from various parts of the kingdom, further than to feel that the splendid and apparently settled character of the weather must prove greatly beneficial to all the grain crops.

The aggregate character of the year's foreign produce may, we think, be fairly estimated at a standard of from 5 to 7½ per cent. more favourable than our own. The latest reports from France, Spain and Germany are favourable, and there are no complaints of the state of the crops in the vast territory of America.

We shall naturally be peculiarly subjected for a few weeks to the influence of what (to originate a term) we may call weather markets. There will be the strong anxiety to realise at the prevailing high price. On the other hand, there will be the desire to hold a small portion of the still remaining old stock, should the weather be such as to render it probable that the new supply will be both gathered in bad condition and be small in quantity. Having regard to the entire aspect of affairs, we cannot but regard it as highly probable that the year 1855 will be fraught with greater prosperity and a higher range of profits to our banking and agricultural interests than to other classes of the community. Under the influence of war, a high rate of interest has prevailed for money during the past year, notwithstanding that the production of the precious metals has continued at a high standard. Under the influence of both war and an actual and continual increase in the quantity of money (for money, unlike corn, when once produced cannot be either destroyed or consumed, as in the case of grain and cattle, or kept from circulation without loss to its owners), a remunerative standard of prices must prevail for all the great articles of food. The trading and mercantile interests (especially those whose trade is in

articles of luxury), and the possessors of fixed incomes, will, we greatly fear, experience no improvement in their position. It is not possible that a great war can be carried on at a great distance, without incurring a great expenditure. Already we hear, booming in the distance, the sounds of new loans and new taxes. Ponies cannot advance in price in Turkey from £3 to £15 per head, and cattle, crops, and other property be "burnt or destroyed," without some classes of the community suffering therefrom.

It were an interesting part of the inquiry, what proportion of the advances in the price of wheat, from 38s. 6d. in 1851, to 70s. in 1854, has been occasioned by the discovery of the mines of precious metals. Assuming the calculations contained in Mr. Newmarch's letters to have been accurate, there had, up to June, 1853, been effected an increase in the world's stock of gold of 10 per cent., and in its stock of silver of 25 per cent. The bulk of this increased stock (the influence of a state of war especially giving rise to its being coined into money rather than being applied to an increase of plate and other purposes of luxury), has, we are of opinion, got into circulation in the shape of a large increase of our metallic currency. If this be so, we have surely had an increase in the circulating medium, up to the time we write, sufficient to account for the advance in the prices of wheat, meat, land, building materials, iron, and other great staple commodities, to the extent of 15 or 20 per cent. The extinction of the great majority of the gold-mining companies, and the ascertained partial failure of the newly-invented machine for the extraction of the precious metallic ore, as remunerative investments, may, probably, in some degree, retard the progress of this rate of advance in prices. In any case, however, the topic is one of such vast bearing upon our monetary, agricultural, mercantile and other relations, that we need not offer any apology for having thus briefly adverted to it. He who, speculating upon the prices of produce, omits from consideration money itself, commits an error not less illogical than he who, speculating upon the prices of money, omits from consideration the amount of produce.

We cannot thus record our opinion of the harvest of 1854, without expressing a regret that the legislature has not yet thought it compatible with its duty to originate a "Board of Agriculture" as well as a "Board of Trade." We do not attach any great value to the utility of such a body in obtaining an accurate return or register of the quantity of grain produced, but rather as a means of stimulating production itself. It is labour that is the source of all wealth; and a register of that labour, with a view to its full employment, would, we conceive, be fraught with greater advantage than the mere gratification of any feeling of inquisitiveness, touching the character of a harvest. If we had such a register, we should not long have to lament the appearance of such conflicting agricultural reports as the following in the same paper. Writing from a village in Durham, an agriculturist says—"Labourers' wages are very high; the best workmen are emigrating to Australia." Writing from a village in Leicestershire, another agriculturist remarks—"In our village, containing 500 inhabitants, we

have twenty able young men lying idle." We have no doubt but, if the Government were to originate a board of labour, and publish at frequent intervals such a register of all cases of deficiency and excess—originating much as they do in lack of knowledge and a medium of intercommunication—both more wealth might be produced at our markets, and less be consumed within the walls of workhouses and prisons.

We had almost overlooked the important article of wool. The low range of prices now prevailing may fairly be attributed to the stagnation in some branches of manufacture, consequent upon the war and the high prices of food. The high price of mutton indicates that the growth of wool cannot have been very large; and at the high prices that have prevailed for food generally, the poorer classes of our population have been scarcely able to purchase a sufficiency. New woollen clothing has been out of the question. This state of things cannot last. The first return of a greater abundance of food, and less war, will occasion an advance in the value of this commodity.

As incidental to the state of "the weather markets" during the ensuing six weeks, it may not be out of place to state that the imports of grain into the port of London, from the 7th of May to the 2nd of July, were 284,000 quarters, as compared with 193,000 quarters during the same period in 1853; and that with every reasonable prospect of continued fine weather, and arrivals of grain of this year's growth—from Italy and other places whose harvests are earlier than our own—we should consider the man bold who held for higher prices.

THE SOUTH SEA COMPANY.

THE rejection of the Trust clauses from the bill introduced for arranging the affairs of the South Sea Company, has served the purpose of the dissentient proprietors; and the act has passed in its simple form, to realise and distribute assets. The corporation is, therefore, virtually defunct, and power alone remains to divide the property when it shall have been realised. We, like Mr. Parnell, at the late meeting, expected to have found "mutes at the door, and the sub-governor and his colleagues in black," for the loss of the cherished Trust scheme; but we were agreeably surprised to discover that they bear their disappointment with becoming fortitude, and appear desirous of at length finally squaring accounts. The estimated value of South Sea Company is now placed by the Court at within a fraction of £119 per £100; and, although the allowance from the Government ceased in January, the directors, by the judicious employment of the funds in their custody, have been able to declare a dividend at the old rate of $1\frac{3}{4}$ per cent., free of income-tax. A great number of the proprietors have expressed regret

that the Court have not already organised arrangements for distributing a portion of the money and securities in hand; but it has been explained, that delicate management will be required in dealing with the large amount of Exchequer bills and India bonds which are in the possession of the company. A promise has, however, been made by the directors, that they will give the question immediate consideration, and communicate the result to the proprietors at an early date.* The annexed revised statement of accounts, exhibiting the present actual financial position of the South Sea Company, will be read with interest.

An Account of the Clear Revenue and Profits of the South Sea Company for the Half-year ending July 5th, 1854 (made out pursuant to Act 6th, George II.):—

INCOME.

Half-year's dividend on £1,223,281 18s. 4d.	
South Sea Stock, at 1½ per cent.	£21,407 8 8
Half a year's interest on Exchequer bills	38,306 3 4
Ditto on Exchequer bonds, to 5th of July	2,780 16 5
Ditto on East India bonds, ditto.	1,542 0 0
Half a year's interest on £150,000, Three-and-a-Quarter per Cent., received 8th of April	2,437 10 0
Ditto on £5,000, Three per Cent. Reduced, received 8th of April	75 0 0
Ditto on £113,488 16s. 6d., Old Annuities, received 8th of April	1,702 6 7
Ditto on £50 18s. 4d., Three per Cent. Consols, now due.	0 15 3
Interest on money advanced on loans to 5th of July	2,628 11 11
Half a year's charges of management	1,329 2 11
Rent this half-year	752 15 0
Profit by transfers.	68 17 0
Saving by fractions on the dividends	2 3 3
	£73,033 10 4
To balance brought down.	£66,542 5 0

OUTGOINGS.

Directors' allowance, half-year.	£750 0 0
Clerks' salaries, ditto	1,093 10 0
Pensions, ditto	173 6 8
House expenses, ditto	402 1 3
Contingent charges, ditto	1,026 18 6
Stationery ware, ditto	90 5 4
	£3,536 1 9

* A special meeting was held on the 27th of July, when a report, presented by the directors, was adopted. It was then determined to await the payment of the Exchequer bills at par, unless in the meantime the amount can be favourably realised.

Brought forward	£3,536	1	9
Gratuities to clerks for extra services	720	0	0
Property tax	2,235	3	5
Balance carried infra	66,542	5	2
	£73,033	10	4
By half a year's dividend on £3,662,784 8s. 6d.			
South Sea Stock, at 1 $\frac{1}{4}$ per cent.	64,098	14	6
Then remains	2,443	10	8
	£66,542	5	2

State of the South Sea Company's Affairs on the 5th of July, 1854.

LIABILITIES.			
Amount of the company's bond debt	£4,500	0	0
Interest computed to be due thereon	562	2	6
Half-year's dividend on South Sea Stock ..	64,098	14	6
Arrears of dividends on ditto	21,339	7	1
Directors' allowances, taxes, and other charges unpaid	2,063	13	2
Property tax	523	18	10
Balance of this account	4,326,857	10	10
Balance brought down	£4,326,857	10	10
Deduct South Sea Stock held by the company, at £116 13s. 4d.	1,427,162	4	3
	£2,899,695	6	7
Surplus, being present value of the assets to be realised and divided among the proprietors of South Sea Stock, amounting to £2,899,695 6s. 7d., being equal to £118 17s. per cent.			
	£4,419,945	6	11

ASSETS.			
Balance of the company's cash, as per cash book	£7,089	0	2
Due from Government for charges of management	£1,329	2	11
Ditto for annuities, 1751	300	0	0
	1,629	2	11
Sundry public securities belonging to the company, viz. :—			
South Sea Stock, £1,223,281 18s. 4d., at £116 13s. 4d.	1,427,162	4	3
Exchequer bills	2,128,000	0	0
East India bonds	100,000	0	0
Exchequer bonds	496,193	3	1
Sums advanced on loan, now due to the company	156,607	19	2
Carried forward.. .. .	£4,316,681	9	7

Brought forward	£4,316,681	9	7
Three-and-a-Quarter per Cent. Annuities, £50,000, at 94	47,000	0	0
Three per Cent. Consols, £50 18s. 4d., at 93½	47	12	0
Interest now due on the following securities, viz. :—			
South Sea Stock, half-year's dividend on £1,223,281 18s. 4d., at 1½ per cent.	£21,407	8	8
Exchequer bills, to 5th July	4,810	3	4
Exchequer bonds, ditto	2,780	16	5
East India bonds, ditto	968	10	2
Loans, ditto	572	15	0
£50 18s. 4d., Three per Cent. Consols	0	15	3
	30,540	8	10
Rent now due	476	7	0
Transfer stamps (76)	29	9	6
The company's buildings	25,000	0	0
Balance in the hands of the secretary, stamps, &c.	170	0	0
	£4,419,945	6	11

ROYAL BANK OF AUSTRALIA.

AN elaborate and interesting report has been submitted to the shareholders and creditors of the Royal Bank of Australia, by Mr. W. C. Wryghte, the official manager, under the winding-up order dated March, 1850. In this he describes at length the depressed state of the Australian colonies at the commencement of the undertaking, in 1840, and the subsequent operations of the chairman, Mr. Benjamin Boyd, in sheep-stations, whale fishing, and the building of Boyd-town with the funds of the company, up to his being superseded in 1848. It also sets forth the errors in the accounts submitted at the general meetings, and states in detail the properties remaining in Australia, their applicability, and estimated value, which is asserted to have doubled since they came under the management of the Court of Chancery. The report, to which we may again refer, terminates as follows :—

“The conclusion to be drawn from the foregoing recital is, that the fatal error of the proprietors in this disastrous undertaking was by executing a deed, sanctioning any board of directors, however well-intentioned (with the privileges of irresponsibility and secrecy for five years), in creating liabilities unknown, and to an unlimited extent.

“The chairman proceeded to a distant colony with the bulk of the company's funds in his custody, and arrived at a period of ruinous depression—to which it is well known, infant colonies are exposed after a career of artificial prosperity.

“Of the various schemes he pursued instead of banking, the sheep investment could not fail to be unprofitable to the company, for, while the produce was otherwise applied, the whole of the expenses were discharged from the

funds of the bank. The whale fishery required a constant outlay from the same source, without equivalent gain. The cost of building and establishing Boyd-town turned out an entire failure; so that, collectively, the loss on Sydney transactions alone which the shareholders have now to make good, is the difference between such outlay (being £287,895) and whatever the remaining property may produce: in addition to which loss is the expense of interest paid on loans, also dividends and charges of the London establishment in carrying on a losing concern for 10 years, while Mr. Benjamin Boyd never invested in money in the company more than £350 paid upon his shares, and had property delivered up to him, in settling with the bank agent, which cost the company many thousand pounds.

I have endeavoured to explain, by elaborate accounts, the progress of the company's monetary transactions here and abroad; but, for the information of those who may prefer it, I annex a summary of the company's dealings in a compendious and simple form, showing in the first account how the bank funds have been applied, and in the second the manner intended to supply the deficiency and satisfy the creditors:—

“ Summary of the Affairs of the Royal Bank of Australia, from February 19, 1840, to July 1, 1854.

TOTAL RECEIPTS.

Cash received by the directors for calls	£82,632	14	2
Profits made, as shown by the books	4,215	17	4
Interest charged to the directors	37,507	6	6
Cash borrowed on debentures unpaid (not including interest)	£282,600	0	0
Other debts	74,562	5	8
Carried down to debit of “ winding-up account”	357,162	5	8
	<u>£481,518</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>8</u>

TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS.

Paid expenses of London office	£36,121	15	10
„ dividends	40,601	16	6
„ interest	106,463	15	3
	<u>£183,187</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>7</u>
Bad debts in London	10,147	8	6
Loss on Consols	129	6	2
	<u>10,266</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>8</u>
Advanced to the Sydney branch (exclusive of interest) ..	287,895	3	10
Cash	168	17	7
Total	<u>£481,518</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>8</u>

Winding-up Account, July 1, 1854.

To debts unpaid, as above, brought down	£357,162	5	8
To amount applicable to pay costs of claimants, &c., should the call produce the amount estimated per contra	10,952	15	9
	<u>£368,115</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>5</u>

By property remaining in Australia in discharge of £287,895 3s. 10d. advanced to the Sydney branch, as above, estimated to produce	£154,672	0	0
By cash and Exchequer bills, collected by the official manager since the "winding-up" order—Balance ..	29,243	1	5
By the Master's call on the contributories of £100 per share—Computed to produce	184,200	0	0
Total	£368,115	1	5

Memorandum.—The proceeds of the produce now in England unsold, and on the way from the colony, will, it is expected, be sufficient for the maintenance of the stations and the contingent charges of "winding up."

CIRCULATION OF FICTITIOUS WARRANTS.

It will be noticed by the appended abstract of proceedings at the Mansion House, before the Lord Mayor, on the 20th of July, that a searching investigation is being made into the scandalous frauds lately effected by the circulation of fictitious produce warrants.

Mr. Joseph Windle Cole was brought before the Lord Mayor, in the custody of Daniel Forrester, the Mansion House officer, upon the charge of having obtained £10,000 upon warrants representing goods which were not in existence.

Mr. Humphreys appeared for the prosecution, and Mr. Clarkson for the defence.

Mr. Humphreys said he appeared upon the part of Messrs. Lang and Campbell, colonial brokers, of Mincing-lane, against the defendant, who was a merchant in the city. It grieved him to be obliged to charge a gentleman of highly respectable standing as a commercial man with a very serious offence. He would, on the present occasion, produce no more evidence than would be necessary to show that there were strong grounds for bringing forward the accusation, and causing a strict inquiry into the circumstances. Mr. Humphreys then said that in July, 1853, the defendant applied to Messrs. Lang and Campbell for the large loan of £30,000 or £40,000, which those gentlemen agreed to advance upon certain warrants for bonded goods, the money to be given upon the receipt of the warrants, and in proportion to their value. The warrant, of which the following is a copy, was sent, together with a memorandum in the handwriting of the defendant, to Mr. Lang:—

"Hagen's Sufferance Wharf, St. Saviour's Dock,
London, Nov. 23, 1852.

Warrant for banco tin, imported in the ship *Diana*, from Rotterdam, entered by C. Henbrey; deliverable to Cole Brothers, or their order, by endorsement hereon, on payment of all charges and rent from this date. 1,052 slabs, weighing 32 tons, 9 cwt. 1 qr. and 20 lb.—No. 378.

MALTBY and Co., Wharfingers."

A cheque, of which the following is a copy, was forthwith transmitted to the defendant:—

"No. 52—68, Lombard-street, London. July 29, 1853. Messrs. Martin and Co., pay to Messrs. Cole Brothers, or bearer, ten thousand pounds.
£10,000. LANG and CAMPBELL."

The cheque was crossed to Glyn and Co., the bankers of the defendant, and was paid in the course of business and returned to Messrs. Lang and Campbell, and no suspicion whatever was entertained as to the correctness of the transaction. Warrants were considered by commercial men as unexceptionable as bank notes, and the goods to which the warrant, delivered by the defendant, referred would be, if they existed, worth perhaps between £12,000 and £13,000. In consequence, however, of some information which the prosecutors had received, an investigation was made, and it appeared that the property described had not been lodged in the bonded warehouse mentioned in the memorandum of the defendant.

Mr. Seton Lang said,—I am in partnership with Mr. Campbell, and carry on business at No. 39, Mincing-lane. In July, 1853, I had a communication with Mr. Cole, the defendant, upon the subject of a loan of money. It was in the first instance a conversation in his office in Birchin-lane, and the amount spoken of was, I believe, as near as possible about £40,000, which sum was to be advanced according to his convenience as he should send in the securities, which were to be warrants for bonded Customs' goods. This was before the 29th of July. On the 29th of July the defendant's clerk brought the memorandum produced by Mr. Humphreys to our office. I believe that memorandum to be in the handwriting of Mr. Cole. It has reference to four warrants, three of tin and one of spelter. Upon the receipt of those warrants I directed a cheque to be prepared for £10,000. This is the cheque. It is dated July 29, 1853, and was handed to Mr. Cole's clerk, paid in due course, and returned to me by my bankers. In consequence of information which I received on the subject, I caused inquiries to be made at the Custom-house.

Mr. Charles Chappell, clerk of certificates in the Bill of Entry Office in the Custom-house, said,—In consequence of an application made to me on the 13th of this month, I searched the books of the Custom-house, and found that 2,091 slabs of tin had arrived by the ship *Diana*, from Neudiep, Master R. Kavanaugh, on the 13th of November, 1852, and were warehoused at Platform Wharf, having been entered by C. Henbrey on the 15th of November, 1852, weighing 1,304 cwt. 2 qr. 21 lb., comprising 1,038 plates in one parcel, marked D, and 1,053 plates in another parcel, marked E. Platform Wharf is a bonded warehouse; Hagen's Wharf is a licensed wharf for free goods, but not for goods liable to duty. J. Maltby is licensed to land goods free of duty, but not dutiable goods.

Mr. C. Henbrey.—I am a lighterman, and my place of business in the city is in Beer-lane. I know Mr. Cole, the defendant. On the 15th of November, 1852, I lightered goods from the ship *Diana*, Kavanaugh master, from Neudiep, to Platform Wharf. It was about 65 tons of metal. It was not to Hagen's Wharf that I took them.

Mr. Lang (being again called) said,—I have heard Mr. Chappell describe them in the Customs' books. It is my belief that the goods referred to in the warrant are part of the identical goods described in that evidence. The warrant describes the weight of the tin. I advanced the money in July last year. I relied upon the warrant. It represents that the merchandise was at the wharf. I have ascertained that the warrant is not a genuine warrant. I first discovered about a month ago that the goods were not there. I saw Maltby at his counting-house, and demanded to see the goods, but he would not allow me to see them. I have ascertained that the wharfinger has absconded. I believe the goods are not there at this moment, and that they were not there in July, 1853; and I believe I shall be able to prove that such is the case, if a remand be given. I have a number of other warrants. I believe the whole amount of the warrants for tin and spelter which we hold is £17,000.

The Lord Mayor, on remanding the defendant, said he felt bound in so important a case to require large securities for the appearance of the defendant on the second examination, and fixed them at two sureties of £1,000 each, and the defendant's own responsibility to the amount of £2,000.

MERCANTILE SUSPENSIONS.

SINCE the appearance of the *Bankers' Magazine* for July, several further mercantile failures have occurred, principally in London and the manufacturing districts. We have also to record the failure of Messrs. R. and G. L. Schuyler, of New York, the head of the railway interest, accompanied by some disclosures of a most distressing character :—

June.—Cole Brothers, London, East India and metal traders.

July.—H. W. Lord and Co., London, produce brokers.

S. Hammond, Leeds, flax trade.

Passavant and Co., Bradford, worsted trade.

Beckenback and Co., Bradford, worsted trade.

S. Townend, Bradford, worsted trade.

W. Beavers, Bradford, worsted trade.

S. Wilkinson, Bradford, worsted trade.

R. McLaurin and Co., Bradford, worsted trade.

Leys, Masson and Co., Aberdeen, flax trade.

Milne, Cruden and Co., Aberdeen, flax trade.

S. Gopceevich, Trieste and London, grain trade.

R. and G. L. Schuyler, New York, merchants.

De Launy, Iselin and Clarke, New York, bankers and brokers.

R. Schell, New York, banker and broker.

Willis and Co., Boston, exchange brokers.

The failure of Messrs. Cole Brothers, followed shortly after that of Messrs. Davidson and Gordon, the two firms being largely connected in business. The discovery since made of the fraudulent use of duplicate warrants, by which several parties will be severe sufferers, exhibits in a marked manner the irregularity of their transactions. The liabilities of Messrs. Cole Brothers are stated at £400,000, and the assets will, it is feared, prove very small. Messrs. Lord and Co., the produce brokers, have been brought to the ground through advancing to the extent of about £40,000 upon these doubtful securities, and the proceeds for creditors will greatly depend upon the dividends paid by Davidson and Gordon, and Cole Brothers. It is supposed they will wind up under inspection, nothing whatever being alleged against their proceedings. Their outstanding liabilities exceed £100,000. The failure of Mr. S. Hammond, of Leeds, is for £30,000, and the assets reach about £10,000. With regard to the Bradford failures, it is stated they represent about £150,000, but no positive information has transpired respecting assets. The Aberdeen suspensions have been for small amounts—£15,000 in one case, and £5,000 in the other. The embarrassments of Messrs. Gopceevich have been only temporary. Assistance from the Bank of Vienna, who have advanced on ample security £200,000, has enabled the engagements of the houses both in Trieste and London to be paid, and business will again be continued without further interruption. The panic created in the New York share market by the failure of Messrs. Schuyler, and the consequent revelation of an over-issue of stock in the New York and New Haven Railway Company, by which the undertaking is compromised to the extent of about £400,000, will, it is presumed, produce further disasters. One of the New York papers, alluding to this subject, says :—

"Intense excitement has been caused from the discovery of a large over-issue of stock in the New York and New Haven Railway, by Mr. Robert Schuyler, the president of the company. The extent of the fraud, the respectability of the party concerned, the position occupied by the suspended house, and the effects of its innumerable contracts becoming null and void, make it one of the most deplorable events that has occurred in Wall-street for many years. Unfortunately it has been discovered that the frauds have not been confined to the New York and New Haven Railway Company, it having been ascertained that stock has been over-issued in seven companies, to the extent of \$11,350,000. Confidence has been more shaken by these disclosures than by any event that has previously occurred within the history of the country, and the effect already upon public credit has been most disastrous. Such has been the effect on the market, that the shares in one of the leading stocks—the New Haven Railroad—declined in one week 41 per cent. If the companies directly concerned had been the only sufferers, it would not have been so bad; but there is not a stock-holder in any railroad company in the country who will not suffer more or less in a pecuniary way from the acts of Schuyler and others. The following is a list of the recent frauds discovered in the shape of over-issues of stock, calculated at par value:—

New York and New Haven Railroad Company	\$1,900,000
New York and Harlem Railroad Company, stock, bonds, &c.	500,000
Naugatuck Railroad Company	30,000
New Haven and Northampton Railroad Com- pany	20,000
Parker Vein Coal Company	7,500,000
Vermont Central Railroad Company . .	1,300,000
Empire Stone Dressing Company	100,000

Total \$11,350,000 or £2,300,000.

Messrs. William and George Reade, provision merchants, who lately failed, have been declared bankrupts. Among the general list of bankrupts, there have also, within the last few days, appeared the names of Messrs. Guistiniani and Severio, described as merchants, of St. Mary Axe and Leghorn, &c. The affairs of these parties, it will be remembered, were brought under discussion upon the question of partnership when Mr. Frank Castelli failed.

THE HALF-YEARLY MEETINGS.

THE results of the late half-yearly meetings must have proved extremely gratifying to all interested in the success of joint-stock banking enterprise. The high rates of dividends declared, the rapid and profitable increase in the business of the respective establishments, and the influential character of the directors and proprietors, show the estimation in which the system is held, and the success which has attended its development.

The Union, the London and Westminster, the London Joint-Stock and the Commercial, each in their reports present favourable features; and the average distribution ranging from 10 to 15 per cent., an ample return is secured upon the amount of invested capital. The admission of the Joint-Stock Banks to the privileges of the clearing, has afforded facilities in business which are highly appreciated; and the

alteration will, no doubt, be eventually found of mutual benefit to the whole of the banking community.

The question of a limitation reserve-fund—a point so generally mooted at these periodical gatherings—has provoked less discussion than usual, because the directors have, in the cases where it was practicable, ensured arrangements for fixing a *maximum*. At the London and Westminster Bank meeting an endeavour was made to evade the settlement of an account; but the shareholders, determined not to submit to the *dictum* proposed by the board, entered vigorously into a debate upon the subject, when by general consent it was agreed to name £150,000, this sum not to be increased unless by special vote. It was very properly intimated on the part of those who opposed the opinion expressed by the chairman, on behalf of himself and colleagues, that the position they assumed was not to be deemed as interfering with the confidence entertained in the board, but as one they were justified in taking on what might be distinctly considered an “open question.”

The only bank that appears to have suffered loss from the circulation of fictitious warrants is the London Joint-Stock Bank, and in this instance, to the extent of not more than £5,000. On the whole, therefore, the shareholders have reason to be satisfied with the management of these institutions, and with the large proportion of profits they have obtained in the midst of the general and active competition which prevails in banking and financial operations. It was satisfactory to find that the directors of the Union Bank of London, in apportioning their unappropriated shares, recommended a division of the surplus quantity among the general manager and his assistants, as an acknowledgment of the value of their services, and that the shareholders so unanimously agreed to the proposal.

The dividend of the Union Bank of Australia, is £4 per share, or at the rate of 32 per cent. This slight diminution, compared with the previous distribution, arises from the unfavourable turn in the exchanges having diminished the profits on gold purchases. The report of the Bank of New South Wales is encouraging. Possessing considerable resources and influential local connexions, the transactions have secured a satisfactory dividend. The Chartered Bank of Asia is making arrangements to amalgamate with a Bombay Bank already in operation. Meanwhile, from the employment of the deposits, a payment of interest to the scripholders has been made at the rate of £4 per cent.

LIMITED LIABILITY IN JOINT-STOCK BANKS.

THE following answers by Mr. J. W. Gilbart, the General Manager of the London and Westminster Bank, to questions addressed him by the Mercantile Law Commissioners relative to the operation of limited liability in connection with joint-stock banks, published in the report recently issued, will be read with attention by all parties interested in the question:—

Without attempting to answer all the questions of the commissioners, I am really to state my opinion generally upon the question of the liability of shareholders in joint-stock banks.

1. I do not think it desirable to limit the liability of the shareholders in joint-stock banks, unless such limitation were accompanied by other measures that should afford equal security to the public. (Questions Nos. 1 and 2.)

2. I do not think that at present joint-stock banks are worse managed than they would be with limited liability. Nor do I think that the bad management of some joint-stock banks has in any degree arisen from the unlimited liability of the shareholders. (Question No. 8.)

3. I do think that in some cases, when there was good reason to believe that the banks had lost a part or the whole of their capital, they still retained the confidence of the public and of the London bill brokers, from a knowledge of the fact that all the shareholders were answerable to the whole extent of their property, for the debts of the bank. (Question No. 8.)

4. I believe that, when joint-stock banks have stopped payment, the stoppage has caused less excitement and inconvenience, in consequence of the unlimited liability of the shareholders. And I believe only three instances have occurred of joint-stock banks not paying all their creditors in full, and in these cases the creditors either individually or collectively accepted a composition.

5. I believe that three instances have occurred of joint-stock banks stopping payment and afterwards going on again through the assistance obtained from their proprietors. And I think it may be questioned, whether the shareholders would have made these exertions, were it not for their unlimited liability.

6. I believe it is undoubtedly true that many wealthy men abstain from becoming shareholders in joint-stock banks in consequence of "the unlimited liability," and that, though friendly to the principles of joint-stock banking, they take shares only in those banks which have charters limiting the liability. (Question No. 10.)

7. I think it desirable that wealthy men should be encouraged to become shareholders in joint-stock banks, because by their influence they bring business to the bank—because the bank has then a greater number of persons from whom to choose suitable directors; and because, when such shareholders address the directors, either privately or at public meetings, in the language of caution or advice, their social position gives greater weight to their admonitions.

8. I think, therefore, it is desirable that the public should have permission to form joint-stock banks with limited liability, provided they complied with certain conditions to be fixed by the legislature, and provided means were adopted to ascertain that those conditions were permanently observed. (Question No. 11.)

9. I believe that, in forming joint-stock banks with limited liability, it is desirable that they should be formed by Act of Parliament, without any reference to the Treasury. Negotiations with the Government in reference to bank charters are found to be tedious and expensive. It would be better that the legislature should state explicitly the conditions required. Those banks that choose to comply with these conditions should be permitted to have limited liability—those that did not comply with these conditions should not have the privilege.

10. I believe there would be some difficulty in fixing upon these conditions. For, if the conditions were too stringent, no bank would comply with them; and if not stringent, they might not furnish adequate security to the public.

11. I believe, however, that certain general principles might be adopted, similar to those now embodied in the charters granted to the various colonial banks. These are: a fixed amount of paid-up capital; an extent of liability on the part of the shareholders to three or four times the amount of the capital; a restriction on the bank against incurring debts to the public, either

by deposits, notes, or any other means, beyond a certain multiple of the paid-up capital; and a prohibition against engaging in other branches of business, or making certain classes of investments.

12. In most deeds of settlement, the bank directors are prohibited from making investments in foreign securities, or engaging in any business but banking. In cases of limited liability, I think that these restrictions might be extended so as to prohibit the making of advances upon dead securities, as land, houses, collieries, &c.; the re-discounting bills of exchange; the granting of loans above a certain proportion of the capital to any one individual, or any one firm.

13. In limiting the liability of the shareholders, I do not think it would be desirable to make any difference between banks that issue notes and those that do not. Most of the joint-stock banks that have stopped payment did not issue notes; and those that did issue notes, made provision to pay off the notes immediately, in order to avoid the suits that solicitors and others who held these notes might bring against them. And I think, too, that to make a distinction between banks that issue notes and those that do not, would give a sanction to those absurd notions that are prevalent among certain political economists, as to the dangerous character of banks of issue.

14. I think that the existing banks of issue, containing not more than six partners, ought to be allowed to increase the number of their partners, either with or without limited liability; and ought not on that account to be deprived of their privilege of issue. I think, too, that if two issuing joint-stock banks in England should unite, then the united bank should be allowed to issue to the amount of the issues of both the united banks, as is the case in England and Scotland. And I think this arrangement should in no way be affected by the limitation of the liability of the shareholders.

15. I think that, if any existing joint-stock bank should comply with the prescribed conditions, and become a bank with a limited liability, but should afterwards find these conditions to be injurious, this bank should, on giving six months' notice, be allowed to return to its former state, and again become a bank with unlimited liability.

16. With regard to *commandite* partnerships generally, the commissioners will get better opinions than mine. As to their dealings with bankers, I see no objection to them, provided they are honestly conducted. But I think means should be taken to guard against fraud or misrepresentation. If the agent of such a company brings to his banker bills to discount, and tells him that certain parties are partners who are not partners, or that a certain capital is paid up which is not paid up, then that agent ought to be punished, and that too without any trouble or expense to the party whom he has attempted to defraud. It is not enough that the banker may get correct information by going to some public office, or hunting through the *Gazettes*. I think it ought to be incumbent on such companies to give ample information to every person with whom they deal, and that a neglect to do so should be punished criminally.

17. I think, in introducing this new system of partnerships in *commandite*, an officer might be appointed, whose duty it should be to prosecute all fraud committed by the partners or agents of such companies. This officer, too, in case of failure, should take immediate possession of all the property of the company, and not permit the estate to be frittered away, as is often the case at present, while the creditors are considering what steps to adopt. If this experiment of appointing a public prosecutor should be found to succeed with regard to *commandite* partnerships, the plan might be extended to other partnerships; and hence might arise a great improvement in our commercial law.

TRADE OF THE UNITED KINGDOM.

THE Board of Trade tables for the month ending the 5th of June, were issued on the 3rd of July. As compared with the corresponding period of last year, the declared value of our exportations shows an increase of £409,457. The chief augmentation has been in metals, especially in pig and bar iron, consequent upon the sustained demand in the United States and Canada; but in most branches of production the totals are of a satisfactory character, the only falling off of importance being in cotton manufactures, the market for which has since recovered. The subjoined table gives the exact increase or decrease in the shipments under each head:—

DECLARED VALUE OF EXPORTATIONS.

Month ending June 5.	1853.	1854.	Increase.	Decrease.
Alkali—viz., soda	£36,682	£36,973	£291	—
Beer and ale	136,147	125,542	—	£10,605
Butter	24,009	18,727	—	5,282
Candles	10,045	14,681	4,636	—
Cheese	11,275	4,427	—	6,848
Coals and culm	142,884	230,421	87,537	—
Cordage and cables	18,696	34,848	16,152	—
Cotton manufactures	2,234,619	2,098,874	—	135,745
Cotton yarn	543,531	575,551	32,020	—
Earthenware	107,979	129,162	21,183	—
Fish	8,084	10,746	2,662	—
Glass manufactures	38,292	48,403	10,111	—
Haberdashery and millinery	277,890	279,976	2,086	—
Hardwares and cutlery	304,233	350,191	45,958	—
Leather	132,493	121,698	—	10,795
Linen manufactures	342,500	330,576	—	11,924
Linen yarn	109,783	74,877	—	34,906
Machinery	161,644	172,879	11,235	—
Metals	1,116,165	1,541,633	425,468	—
Oil and seeds	26,386	20,889	—	5,497
Painters' colours, &c.	26,893	22,634	—	4,259
Salt	20,745	25,480	4,735	—
Silk manufactures	123,166	114,461	—	8,705
Silk, thrown	18,758	15,262	—	3,496
Silk, twist, and yarn	15,844	16,225	381	—
Soap	28,379	24,725	—	3,654
Stationery	47,499	64,642	17,143	—
Sugar, refined	20,862	20,646	—	216
Wool, sheep or lambs'	24,749	48,131	23,382	—
Woollen manufactures	865,123	846,530	—	18,593
Woollen yarn	147,836	112,838	—	34,998
Total	7,123,191	7,532,648		

The aggregate value of our exports during the first five months of the present year has been £35,725,362, against £35,093,824 in the

like period of 1853, showing an increase of £631,538, which has occurred in the following order :—

Month ending		Increase.		Decrease.
February 5	.. ..	—	..	£368,748
March 5	.. ..	£344,784	..	—
April 5	.. ..	993,572	..	—
May 5	.. ..	—	..	747,527
June 5	.. ..	409,457	..	—

As compared with the same period of 1852, there is an increase of £7,945,066.

With regard to imported commodities, also, the returns show great activity, the increase being large, not only of wheat and flour, but also in the import and consumption of salted provisions of all kinds, cocoa, coffee, sugar, tobacco, fruits, and spices. Spirits and tea likewise show a great increase as regards imports, although there has been a diminution in the consumption, to be accounted for as regards the latter by the large quantities taken by the dealers in the preceding month. Of wines there has been a falling off both in imports and consumption for the month, although the aggregate totals from the commencement of the year exhibit an increase.

Subjoined are the quantities of provisions, &c., imported and taken for home consumption :—

Month ending June 5.	Imported.		Home Consumption.	
	1853.	1854.	1853.	1854.
Grain, wheat, quarters	525,236	611,993	525,236	611,993
Grain of other descriptions, qrs. . .	295,403	281,466	295,403	281,466
Indian corn, quarters	163,497	158,696	163,497	158,696
Flour and meal, cwt.	342,502	378,205	342,502	378,205
Provisions—Bacon, pork, lard, cwt.	77,389	169,429	Free.	Free.
Butter and cheese, cwt. . . .	54,225	73,905	57,911	70,765
Animals, No.	12,626	11,223	Free.	Free.
Eggs, No.	12,712,743	15,540,278	12,756,183	15,540,278
Cocoa, lb.	1,185,866	1,507,181	283,814	376,345
Coffee, British, lb.	3,549,355	3,594,171	2,122,699	2,693,878
Ditto, foreign, lb.	1,066,291	1,914,165	619,584	499,987
Total coffee	4,615,646	5,508,336	2,742,283	3,193,865
Sugar—				
West India, cwt.	391,434	513,163	255,119	301,424
Mauritius, cwt.	187,418	253,970	191,491	237,415
East India, cwt.	67,940	40,525	124,212	90,561
Foreign, cwt.	105,349	210,996	42,454	11,553
Total sugar	752,141	1,018,654	613,276	640,953
Tea, lb.	6,709,946	10,941,455	9,253,298	5,107,489
Rice, cwt.	65,358	129,679	55,880	96,845
Spirits, gallons	319,925	1,054,833	379,357	349,223
Wines, gallons	1,260,827	1,044,739	647,505	619,289
Opium, lb.	9,699	1,043	4,352	4,837
Tobacco, lb.	1,965,392	2,443,495	2,363,202	2,524,451
Currants, figs and raisins, cwt. . .	15,657	18,484	29,357	31,004
Spices, lb.	319,925	1,961,985	177,649	330,898
Ditto, cwt.	1,157	4,938	166	292

The following are the comparative imports and exports of raw material, showing a large increase in flax, hemp, and tallow, which will account for the recent recovery in the rate of exchange at St. Petersburg. Of raw silk and cotton there have also been heavy arrivals, but wool presents a falling off:—

Month ending June 5.	Imported.		Exported.	
	1853.	1854.	1853.	1854.
Flax, cwt.	133,430	205,587	—	—
Hemp, cwt.	38,250	94,005	—	—
Raw silk, lb.	384,993	1,172,938	37,994	124,422
Cotton, cwt.	731,128	1,205,744	163,372	100,085
Wool, lb.	9,638,974	7,838,399	740,646	2,263,280
Tallow, cwt.	35,805	47,449	—	—

Of silk manufactures the totals stand thus :—

Month ending June 5.	Imported.		Home Consumption.	
	1853.	1854.	1853.	1854.
Silk manufactures of Europe, lb.	37,608	41,168	36,336	39,196
Ditto, of Indian pieces	29,741	36,634	20,850	17,397

The importations of other articles have been on an average scale. In glass manufactures, metals, guano, timber, and oils of all kinds, except olive, there has been a general increase, and in hides a considerable decrease.

OPERATIONS OF THE BANK OF ENGLAND.

A RETURN has been issued, showing the total discounts of the Bank of England for each month and year, from January, 1848, to the end of May last. From this it appears that the annual amounts discounted have been as follows :—

Year.	Temporary quarterly advances.	Discounts.
1848 ..	£2,608,369	£8,513,026
1849 ..	4,333,479	4,519,348
1850 ..	11,460,552	7,723,479
1851 ..	11,825,216	15,295,325
1852 ..	4,589,387	8,249,750
1853 ..	12,788,900	25,182,547
1854 ..	4,116,200	9,568,745
5 months, Jan. to May }		

The continuous demand for money prevalent during the present year is thus shown to have been nearly equal to that which was felt in 1853, when the Bank discounts amounted to nearly three times as much as the average of the five preceding years.

The same return also exhibits the highest and lowest rates of interest

charged by the Bank, from January, 1848, to May, 1854, for advances on stock or other securities or the discount of commercial paper. As regards advances on stock, the highest charge has been 5 per cent., this rate having been current in the month of January, 1848, and again in each month since October, 1853. The lowest has been $1\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., which was current, with only a slight exception, during the seven months from June, 1852, to January, 1853. For discounts, the highest charge has been 6 per cent. and the lowest 2 per cent. Throughout the whole period, the Bank have adhered to their custom of making no advances on real estate.

A statement is likewise included of the bullion bought and sold by the Bank from 1848 to May, 1854. The annual figures in this case are as follows; but it must be remembered that, while they indicate the periods at which large arrivals or shipments of gold were taking place, they give no complete idea of the extent of any drain or of the general specie movements of the country, as the withdrawal or return of sovereigns in exchange for Bank notes are among the chief influences in that respect:—

	Gold bought.		Gold sold.
1848 ..	£5,798,038	..	£1,779,589
1849 ..	3,646,658	..	116,771
1850 ..	2,938,223	..	735,953
1851 ..	7,099,584	..	307,323
1852 ..	15,350,771	..	1,377,705
1853 ..	8,706,696	..	3,560,955
1854, Jan. } to May }	1,091,990	..	2,678,032

Of silver, with the exception of £2,500 bought in September, 1852, there have been no purchases by the Bank since 1848, the last having been in the spring of that year, when £604,306 was taken. A total has been sold, however, of £1,954,497, which has left the issue department for a long time bare of that metal.

The last return comprises the amounts paid for composition by bankers, in each year since the 5th January, 1848, to the 5th January, 1854, the totals being as follows:—

Year ended 5th January,		Bank of England.		Country Bankers.		Total.	
		£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.
1849 ..	1,750	0	0	24,688	0 6	26,438	0 6
" "	1850 ..	1,750	0 0	24,333	18 6	26,083	18 6
" "	1851 ..	1,750	0 0	24,505	1 6	26,255	1 6
" "	1852 ..	2,625	0 0	25,213	5 6	27,838	5 6
" "	1853 ..	3,500	0 0	25,171	9 0	28,671	9 0
" "	1854 ..	3,500	0 0	26,777	7 0	30,277	7 0

POST-OFFICE REVENUE.

THE Post-Office returns for 1853 have just been issued, and embrace—1st, the number of letters delivered in the United Kingdom; 2nd, the revenue; 3rd, the cost of management; 4th, the payments to railways; and 5th, the number and amount of money-orders. The following table of these particu-

lars, in a condensed form, will show the annual progress that has been made from 1839 (the last year of the old system) to the present time :—

Year.	Estimated number of letters.	Net revenue after paying cost of management.	Cost of management.	Payments to railways (included in cost of management.	Money orders issued.	
					Number.	Amount.
		£	£	£		£
1839	82,470,596	1,633,764	756,999	52,860	188,821	313,124
1840	168,768,334	500,789	858,677	52,362	587,797	960,975
1841	196,500,191	561,249	938,168	96,190	1,552,845	3,127,507
1842	208,434,450	600,641	977,504	78,464	2,111,980	4,337,177
1843	220,450,306	640,217	980,650	97,526	2,501,523	5,112,840
1844	242,091,684	719,957	985,110	92,493	2,806,803	5,695,395
1845	271,410,789	761,982	1,125,594	181,111	3,176,126	6,413,361
1846	299,586,762	825,112	1,138,745	110,430	3,515,079	7,071,056
1847	322,146,243	984,496	1,196,520	121,859	4,031,185	7,903,177
1848	328,830,184	740,429	1,403,250	318,631	4,203,651	8,151,294
1849	337,399,199	840,787	1,324,562	230,079	4,248,891	8,152,643
1850	347,069,071	803,898	1,460,785	400,964	4,439,713	8,494,498
1851	360,647,187	1,118,004	1,304,163	242,848	4,661,025	8,886,420
1852	379,501,499	1,090,419	1,343,907	329,963	4,947,825	9,438,277
1853	410,817,489	1,173,727	1,400,679	374,859	5,215,290	9,916,195

Coupled with these accounts is a statement of the expense of the Money-order Office for 1853. The total cost for the United Kingdom was £72,725; and as the amount of commission received was £86,874, there was a profit in this department of £14,149. But for an excess of £770 in the expenditure of the Irish offices over the receipts, the surplus would have been £14,919, as the gain for England and Wales was £14,402, and for Scotland £517. Last year the total profit was only £10,689, and five years ago it was but £322. In England and Wales the annual issue of money-orders, in proportion to the population, is now at the rate of about one to every four persons, and for the United Kingdom it is about one to every five persons.

FOREIGN AND COLONIAL BANK CHARTERS.

WE have compiled from a parliamentary return recently published, the following particulars of all applications for charters, with their results, by promoters of foreign and colonial banks, from 1838 to 1853, which will be found to present a variety of interesting information, especially to parties connected with banking. It will be noticed that some applications relate to the extension of charters of the old establishments; but these we have thought it as well to include, as they render the tables more perfect.

Name of Company.	Date of Application.	Names of Applicants.	Objects for which the Charter was required.	Amount of Capital proposed.	Result of Application.
Western Bank of Scotland.	1838:— 8 June .	The Directors of the said Company.	For carrying on the business of banking.	£1,500,000.	No report made.
Colonial Bank (Supplemental Charter).	14 Sept. .	The Directors	For varying so much of their charter as declares that their notes must be paid in dollars of acknowledged weight and fineness.		Supplemental charter granted.
Union Bank of Jamaica.	29 Nov. .	William Smith, Adam Hodgson, Charles Stewart Parker, and other merchants of Liverpool.	For carrying on the business of banking in Jamaica.	£250,000.	No report.
Bank of British North America.	1839:— 10 April.	The Directors	For carrying on the business of banking in any cities, towns or places within any British Colonies in or adjacent to North America.	£1,000,000.	Charter granted.
Bank of Asia . .	1840:— 6 March.	Sir Gore Ousley, Bart., W. Jardine, W. Newnham, and others.	For carrying on the business of banking in India and elsewhere, in China.	Not stated.	No report.
Bank of Ceylon . .	28 April.	T. Aiers Hanbury, James J. Cummin, H. J. Albrecht, John Aiers Hankey, Thomas Young, and others.	For carrying on the business of banking in Ceylon.	£250,000.	Charter granted.
West India Bank . .	8 August.	Arthur Moore, Samuel Inniss, Nicholas Humphrey Walrond, and others.	For carrying on the business of banking in Barbados and other West India Islands, and in British Guiana.	2,000,000 dls.	Charter granted.
Edinburgh and Leith Bank.	29 Dec. .	Sir James Forrest, Bart., Lord Provost of Edinburgh, John Mackenzie, Adam Longman, and the other Directors of the Bank.	For carrying on the business of banking in all its branches.	£500,000.	No report.

Name of Company.	Date of Application.	Names of Applicants.	Objects for which the Charter was required.	Amount of Capital proposed.	Result of Application.
South Australian Banking Company.	1841:— 12 June.	John Randall, G. Fife Angus, and Henry Kingscote.	To establish a bank or banks of issue and deposit, in South Australia.	£280,000.	Charter granted.
Union Bank of Australia.	1842:— 22 Feb.	J. J. Cummins, John Gore, and Robert Brooks.	For a bank of issue and deposit for New South Wales, Van Diemen's Land, New Zealand, and other Australian colonies.	£500,000.	No report.
Bank of Ceylon (Supplemental charter).	3 June.	Frederick Hankey, for himself and others.	For extending for two years the time for paying up the full capital.		Supplemental charter granted.
East India Bank.	9 July.	Lord Mountcashel, B. Disraeli, M.P., R. W. Forster, M.P., E. S. Cayley, M.P., Richard Montgomery Martin, and many others.	For carrying on the business of banking in the East Indies.	Not stated.	No report.
British Bank of Smyrna.	1843:— 23 Aug.	A. Montgredien, of Liverpool, and Robert Wilkin, of Smyrna.	For carrying on the business of banking at Smyrna, and other places in the Levant.	£300,000.	Charter granted.
Malta Bank. . . .	1844:— 28 Nov.	Augustus Montgredien, merchant, of Liverpool.	For carrying on the business of banking, and to establish branches at different places in the Mediterranean.	£500,000.	No report.
British Linen Company in Scotland (Supplemental charter).	1848:— 17 Nov.	The Company, and Earl of Roseberry, Sir George Warrander, Bart., Alexander Hunter, and others.	To confirm charter granted by Geo. II., and to enable the company to enlarge their capital, and increase the number of its directors.	£1,500,000.	Supplementary charter granted.

Name of Company.	Date of Application.	Names of Applicants.	Objects for which the Charter was required.	Amount of Capital proposed.	Result of Application.
Oriental Bank Corporation (Ceylon and Hong Kong Bank).	1850:— 14 Aug..	Harry George Gordon, of London, banker, for self and other shareholders of the Bank of Ceylon.	For carrying on the business of banking in the islands of Ceylon, Hong Kong, &c.	£300,000; with power to raise a further sum of 300,000 <i>l</i> . In three years. Capital may be further increased by 200,000 <i>l</i> with sanction of the Treasury.	Charter granted.
Royal Australian Banking and Gold Importing Company.	1859:— 26 June.	Thomas Aggs, William Bevan, George Henry Cooke, and others.	For carrying on the trade or business of bankers and bullion brokers, in Australia, New South Wales, and Victoria.	£250,000.	Refused.
London Chartered Bank of Australia.	17 Aug..	James Denis De Vitre, R. H. Browne, P. D. Hadow, and others.	To establish banks of issue and deposit, and branches or agencies of such banks, in any cities, towns, and places, within the colonies or settlements of Australasia.	£500,000; may be increased to 1,000,000 <i>l</i> , and, with the consent of the Treasury, to any further sum. Shareholders to be liable to twice the amount of their subscriptions.	Charter granted.
English, Scottish and Australian Chartered Bank.	10 Sept..	W. Ormsby Gore, James Alexander, Charles Johnston, and others.	For establishing banks of issue and deposit, and branches or agencies of such banks, in various cities and towns of Australia and New Zealand, and for carrying on the business of bankers therein.	£500,000; may be increased to 1,000,000 <i>l</i> , and, with sanction of Treasury, to any further sum.	Charter granted.

Name of Company.	Date of Application.	Names of Applicants.	Objects for which the Charter was required.	Amount of Capital proposed.	Result of Application.
Chartered Bank of India, Australia and China.	1852 :— 14 Oct. .	T. A. Mitchell, M.P., James Wilson, M.P., Robert Lowe, M.P., John Bagshaw, and others.	For carrying on banking business on sound principles, in India and Australia, and other British possessions east of the Cape of Good Hope, and in China and the Eastern Archipelago.	£1,000,000; with power to raise the same to 3,000,000 <i>l</i> .	Charter granted.
Bank of India . .	14 Oct. .	Nathaniel Alexander, J. Masterman, jun., A. Moore, Charles Stewart, and others.	For carrying on the general business of banking and exchange in India, China, the Mauritius, Ceylon, and other Eastern possessions of the British empire.	£800,000; with power to raise the same to 2,000,000 <i>l</i> .	Refused.
Chartered Bank of Asia.	9 Nov. .	Thomas Wingate Henderson, Nathaniel Alexander, Ambrose Moore, John Masterman, jun., and others.	For establishing banks of issue and deposit in Ceylon, Hong Kong, and Mauritius, with branch banks and agencies for carrying on all the usual business of bankers.	£800,000.	Charter granted.
Melbourne, Sydney and Adelaide Chartered Bank.	16 Dec. .	Humphrey Brown, M.P., John Macgregor, M.P., Benjamin Oliveira, M.P., and George D'Olier Gower.	For carrying on the business of bankers in the town of Melbourne and other places in the colonies of Australia, New South Wales, and Victoria.	£200,000; with power to increase it to 1,000,000 <i>l</i> .	No report.
Chartered Bank of Canada.	1853. 3 Jan. .	John Masterman, M.P., Ambrose Moore, Frederick Mildred, and others.	For carrying on the business of banking and exchange in Her Majesty's colonies and settlements in North America.	£500,000; with power to increase it to 1,000,000 <i>l</i> .	No report.
London Bank of Australia and India.	28 Jan. .	Robert James Roy Campbell, Francis Howatt, Charles Henry Blake, and others.	For establishing banks of issue and deposit, &c., and branches or agencies, in Australia and New Zealand, and eventually in India.	£300,000; with power to increase the same.	No report.

Banking and Commercial Law.

THE USURY LAWS, AS THEY AFFECT BANKERS.

WE direct the attention of our readers to the following important case, which should be read in connection with the law paper in our last number.

It will be seen that this case establishes the following positions:—

1st. That this Court will look at the real nature of the transaction, although it may be framed in such a way as to appear unobjectionable.

2nd. That in an ordinary banker's account, interest at more than £5 per cent. cannot be secured by a charge on land.

3rd. That the transaction is not altogether illegal, but will be sustained for the lawful rate of interest.

It will also be seen, that the case confirms most of the positions taken up in the paper referred to.

THOMAS v. COOPER.

Rolls Court, Chancery Lane, July 12th. (Before Vice-Chancellor Sir J. STUART.)

THIS was a bill by the mortgagor against the trustees and public officers of the London and County Joint-Stock Banking Company, for an account of the moneys advanced by that bank to the plaintiff, of moneys received by the defendants in satisfaction of a mortgage made to them by the plaintiff, and for a redemption of the mortgaged property. In November, 1841, the plaintiff opened an account with the Chichester Branch of the London and County Bank, and deposited with the defendants the title-deeds relating to certain freehold and household property belonging to the plaintiff, to secure any balance that might be due from the plaintiff to the defendants. In June, 1846, the plaintiff being indebted to the defendant in the sum of £3,000, it was agreed between them that, unless that amount should be repaid to the defendants before the 30th of November ensuing, the plaintiff should execute a mortgage of his freehold and household property to the defendants. Accordingly, on the 4th of December, 1846, a mortgage was executed by the plaintiff to the defendants, by which, after reciting that the plaintiff had not paid the defendants the sum of £3,000, on the 30th of November then last, and that the defendants had since advanced to the plaintiff a further sum of £2,500, making together £5,500, it was witnessed that, in consideration of £5,500, then due and owing by the plaintiff to the defendants, the plaintiff conveyed to the defendants certain freehold and leasehold property, by way of mortgage, for securing £5,000, and interest at 5 per cent. per annum. This sum of £5,500 was further secured by a warrant of attorney, bearing even date with the mortgage, for entering up judgment for the amount. The sum of £2,500, however, was not advanced by the defendants to the plaintiff at the date of the mortgage. On the 23rd of March, 1848, the defendants entered up judgment against the plaintiff on the warrant of attorney, and a writ of *f. fa.* was issued against the plaintiff for levying £1,783 15s. 2d. A portion of this amount was satisfied by a sale of some of the plaintiff's effects; and the defendants having threatened to proceed to a sale of the mortgaged property to recover the balance, the plaintiff prevailed upon a Mr. Slade, a friend, to advance the sum

of £1,252 18s. 2d. to discharge that balance, and the plaintiff's title-deeds in the defendants' possession were handed over to Mr. Slade. That sum was paid under protest by the plaintiff and Slade. The bill was filed in October, 1849, with the object before stated. On the hearing of the cause in July, 1851, an order was made for an account, and the Master was ordered to inquire under what circumstances the mortgage of December, 1846, and the warrant of attorney were given, and whether the same or either of them had been satisfied, and the Master was ordered to inquire what charges had been made by the banking company against the plaintiff, for interest and commission. The Master, by his report, dated the 7th of April, 1854, found that at the date of the mortgage in December, 1846, there was due to the defendant, from the plaintiff, the sum of £3,519 9s. 7d., and that the mortgage was given to secure such a sum, not exceeding £5,500, as the plaintiff might be indebted to the defendants, on a balance of accounts, and as a general cover for such balance. The Master also found that the mortgage and warrant of attorney had been satisfied, and that the defendants had charged the plaintiff with discount for discounting his bills, and also with the following three descriptions of commission, viz:—1, a commission for discounting bills; 2, a commission on unpaid bills; and 3, a commission as a remuneration for keeping the plaintiff's account. The Master found that the gross amount of discount, on those occasions on which more than 5 per cent. per annum discount had been charged, came to £218 18s. 1d. It was said, on the defendants' behalf, that the total amount of discount above £5 per cent. per annum would not exceed one-sixth of this amount. The Master also found that there was a sum of £112 due by the defendants to the plaintiff. By the 7th section of the 3rd and 4th William IV., c. 98, entitled "An Act for giving to the Corporation of the Governor and Company of the Bank of England certain privileges for a limited period, under certain conditions," it is enacted, "that no bill of exchange or promissory note made payable at or within three months after the date thereof, or not having more than three months to run, shall, by reason of any interest taken thereon, or secured thereby, or any agreement to pay or receive or allow interest in discounting, negotiating, or transferring the same, be void, nor shall the liability of any party to any bill of exchange or promissory note be affected by usury." By the 2nd and 3rd Victoria, c. 37 (which does not repeal the 3rd and 4th of William IV., c. 98), it is enacted that bills of exchange and promissory notes, and contracts for loans, or the forbearance of money above £10, shall not be affected by the usury laws; but the proviso to the first section of that act is as follows:—"Provided always, that nothing herein contained shall extend to the loan or forbearance of any money upon security of any lands, tenements, or hereditaments, or any estate or interest therein." It was contended, on behalf of the plaintiff, that as the rate of interest was fixed by the mortgage at £5 per cent. per annum, and that the defendants should be disallowed all such excess, and also all commissions, which, together with interest or discount, would make more than interest at the rate of £5 per cent. per annum.

Mr. Craig and Mr. Moxon appeared for the plaintiff.

The Vice-Chancellor, at the conclusion of the argument of the plaintiff's counsel, said he did not think the defendants' counsel had anything to answer on the subject of the commissions. There appeared to him to be two points to which they should apply their argument. The first was, the general question whether bankers could claim more than £5 per cent., as balances secured on land, and, secondly, whether 5 per cent., being the rate fixed in the mortgage, the rate of interest was not settled by contract.

Mr. Malins and Mr. H. Stevens, for the defendants, contended that they had obtained satisfaction of their debt without resorting to their mortgage; that, even if this were not so, the balance due from the plaintiff to the defendants must be ascertained by reference to the custom of bankers, and that in

this view the mortgage would be a good security for discount even in excess of £5 per cent. per annum, and that the bills in respect of which a larger discount than at the rate of £5 per cent. per annum had been charged, were bills not having more than three months to run, and therefore within the provisions of 3 and 4 William IV., c. 98, sec. 7.

The Vice-Chancellor said the case was one of very great importance; but, looking at the facts before him, he thought a great many of the difficulties attending the questions discussed might be avoided. The plaintiff had dealt with the banking company on the principle of giving them a real security for the balance that might be due on his account. That was done by a mortgage for a given sum, £5,500, which was expressed to be lent and advanced by the defendants to the plaintiff, and to carry interest at £5 per cent. per annum. It was admitted that the real nature of the transaction, notwithstanding the form of the deed, was that it should be a security for the balance which on a settlement might be found to be due from the plaintiff to the defendants. It was also admitted, that in regard to some of the bills which formed items in the account between the plaintiff and the defendants, a rate of discount higher than that of 5 per cent. per annum had been charged, and that in the present state of the law, and on the construction of the 2 & 3 Vict., c. 37, it was impossible for any one, seeking to resort to land as a security for money, to recover a higher rate of interest than at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum. That was decided in *Lane v. Horlock*, 1 Drewry, and by the Lords Justices in *Ex parte Warrington*, 4 De G., M'N., and G., 159. But it was said by the defendants, and the argument on their behalf proceeded on the assumption, that their debt had been satisfied without any resort to the land. If that fact were so, the question as to whether more than 5 per cent. had been charged, would be immaterial. But on the finding of the Master, he (the Vice-Chancellor) could not come to that conclusion; for the defendants had threatened to proceed against the land, and it was only in order to avoid a sale by them to realize the amount of their debt that it had been paid by Slade. Such being the nature of the transaction, he was bound by the proviso in the first section of the 2 & 3 Vict., cap. 37, and the cases before referred to, to disallow to the defendants all the excess of interest above that at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum. If the case stood independently of that statute, he should have felt himself bound by the decision of Sir John Leach, in *Rufford v. Bishop*, 5 Russell, 346, that, if land is given as a security to cover a banker's balance, that balance must be ascertained by reference to the custom of bankers. It had been said, very truly, that the 2 & 3 Vict., cap. 37, did not repeal the 3 & 4 Will. IV., cap. 98, and that under the latter act the defendants had a valid security; but the accounts had been so taken before the Master that it was still left a matter in contest between the parties as to whether any of the bills fell within the provisions of the latter act or not. He should therefore adjourn it to chambers, to ascertain what bills were bills not having more than three months to run, and therefore protected under the provisions of the 3 & 4 Will. IV., cap. 98, and what bills were within the provisions of the 2 & 3 Vict., cap. 37; and, as to the latter class of bills, he should declare that a discount of more than 5 per cent. could not be allowed to the defendants. Each party would pay his own costs.

NOTES OF SOME RECENT DECISIONS ON BANKING AND COMMERCIAL LAW.

In *Bishop v. Countess of Jersey* (23 Law Journal, ch. 486), the extent to which a banking partnership may be bound by the

conduct of one of the partners, was discussed. In the course of delivering judgment, Vice-Chancellor *Kindersley* said:—

“It has been stated that it is part of the business of a banker to find investments for their customers as money scriveners or agents, but it is notorious that this is not within the scope of a banker's business. If a banker is requested to invest a particular sum of money in the funds, that is done by means of a power of attorney; but it is not usual for bankers to seek for investments for their customers, and there certainly is no evidence to show that such was the custom with this particular firm. It does not appear to me that any of the authorities cited come up to this case. They all proceed on the footing that the transaction must be within the ordinary scope or business of the partnership; or, if not, then that the transaction must be undertaken and effected by means of and through the instrumentality of the partnership.”

The Court of Exchequer has decided that a bill of exchange drawn in blank, abroad, and filled up in England, is not an inland bill of exchange within the meaning of the stamp laws, and does not require a stamp.—*Barker v. Sterne*, 23 Law Journal, (Ex.) 201.

The same court has also decided that a party taking a bill of exchange from an indorser by delivery only, without indorsement, is entitled to all the rights the party has who makes the delivery. That party is not liable, but all his rights are transferred to the holder.—*Fairclough v. Pavin*, 23 Law Journal, (Ex.) 215.

Bank Meetings.

BANK OF NEW SOUTH WALES.

THE half-yearly meeting of the proprietors of this bank was held at Sydney, on the 26th of April, Mr. R. Towns, president, in the chair, when the following report was unanimously adopted.

In submitting to the proprietors the accounts for the past half-year, we have great pleasure in being able to report most favourably of the continued progress of the bank.

The unappropriated balance from the former half-year was	£91,059	8	11	£6,125	13	8	
The gross profits of the present period are	15,287	5	7				
Less expenses				£75,772	3	4	
From which has to be deducted, in accordance with our usual practice, rebate on all bills under discount	15,400	0	0				
					60,372	3	4
Leaving available for division					£66,497	17	0

Which we recommend to be appropriated thus:—

To payment of a dividend of 10 per cent. for the half-year	£40,000	0	0
In increase of reserve fund	20,000	0	0
Carrying forward for equalisation of future dividends	6,497	17	0

The reserve fund will thus be raised to £70,000; and with the greatly extended business of the bank, we are decidedly of opinion that the raising of it to £100,000 should be kept in view.

We have to report a steady increase of business in every department, and the satisfactory working of all our branches, particularly that in London, which is now in full operation, and answering every expectation formed of it.

We have made arrangements for the establishment of a new branch in Victoria, at the central position of Kyneton, in the immediate neighbourhood of the gold-fields; also an agency at Sandhurst, the township formed at the Bendigo gold-field; and, as other opportunities may occur for the further expansion of our business, we again request a similar authority to take the necessary steps for the formation of such branches or agencies as we may deem advisable.

Our foreign agencies have also received a valuable addition in Great Britain by a reciprocal arrangement with the eminent joint-stock bank in the West of England, known as Stuckey's Banking Company, and by the more intimate relationship entered into with the Western Bank of Scotland; and in India by a mutual agency established with the Agra and United Service Bank.

We have with regret to advert to the demise of our late secretary, Mr. J. H. Baillie, whose health had for a long time been in a declining state. As a mark of esteem for his talents, and appreciation of the services he rendered to the bank, particularly in the formation of the present institution from the material of the old bank, we have presented his widow with the sum of £1,000.

We have also to inform you that our cashier, Mr. Black, being desirous of retiring from active business, has given us notice of his resignation at the end of the current half-year. Mr. Black has been a zealous and faithful servant of the old and new bank for upwards of 30 years, and we have resolved to present him on his retirement with the sum of £1,000, which, we feel assured, will meet your cordial approbation.

These circumstances involve considerable changes throughout our establishment, but we are making such arrangements we feel confident as will maintain the efficiency and good conduct of the bank.

The dividend now declared will be payable at the banking-house on the shares in the Sydney register on and after to-morrow; and at the branches on the shares on their respective registers immediately on receipt of advice.

Aggregate Balance Sheet, Bank of New South Wales, March 31, 1854.

<i>Dr.</i> To bank stock	..	..	..	..	£400,000	0	0
Notes in circulation	..	..	..	..	577,479	0	0
Deposits	..	..	..	..	2,064,204	0	7
Bills payable	..	..	..	..	132,447	0	2
Old bank circulation	..	..	..	..	6,921	0	0
Other banks	..	..	..	..	215,605	16	6
London branch	..	..	..	..	293,678	1	2
Reserve fund	..	..	..	..	50,000	0	0
Profit and loss	..	..	..	..	81,897	17	0
					£3,822,232	15	5

Cr. By coin	£535,176	14	10
Bullion	359,566	3	1
Notes of other banks	20,158	13	4
Government debentures	4,000	0	0
Bank premises	41,061	10	7
Office furniture	2,730	2	11
Bills receivable	1,671,288	3	4
Current account	227,516	2	10
Other banks	539,537	4	1
London branch	415,323	8	11
Policies of insurance	4,619	11	6
Suspense note account	1,250	0	0
	<u>£3,822,232</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>5</u>

Profit and Loss.

Dr. To current expenses	£15,287	5	7
Net balance	81,897	17	0
	<u>£97,185</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>7</u>
Rebate on bills	15,400	0	0
Dividend at 10 per cent.	40,000	0	0
Reserve fund	20,030	0	0
Carried forward to equalise future dividends..	6,497	17	0
	<u>£81,897</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>0</u>
Cr. By amount from last account	£6,125	13	8
Gross profits of half-year	91,059	8	11
	<u>£97,185</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>7</u>
Net balance, as above	81,897	17	0
	<u>£81,897</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>0</u>

Reserve Fund.

Dr. To balance.. .. .	£70,000	0	0
	<u>£70,000</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Cr. By balance, 30th September, 1853	£50,000	0	0
Amount from profit and loss	20,000	0	0
	<u>£70,000</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>

Audited,

(Signed)

GEORGE THORNE.
E. C. WEEKES.

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN BANKING COMPANY.

THE thirteenth annual meeting of this corporation was held on Tuesday, June 27th, at the offices in Old Broad-street, Mr. Divett, M.P., in the chair.

The Manager (Mr. William Purdy) read the advertisement convening the

meeting, and also the minutes of the last meeting, which were confirmed. He afterwards read the thirteenth annual report :—

“ In again meeting the proprietors, the court of directors are happy to state that the company's operations have been highly successful, and that South Australia continues to offer a profitable field for enterprise.

“ During the past year, the colonists have, by extending agricultural pursuits, been realising the great advantages arising from the adjacent gold-fields. The excellent markets there afforded have substantially developed the capabilities of South Australia, by promoting industry and bringing into profitable occupation large districts of valuable land. The pastoral interests have also been further increased, and, notwithstanding the high rates of labour, the export of wool has been satisfactorily continued. The general trade of the colony has been marked by much less fluctuation and excitement than almost inevitably characterises the commerce of other parts of Australia, and on the whole is in a healthy state, keeping pace with the demands of the population, and legitimately representing their increased wealth.

“ The court of directors are able to assure the proprietors that the affairs of the bank properly reflect the sound and satisfactory position of the colony. Detailed accounts have been received to 28th November last, the date of the annual balance in Adelaide, when the entire assets were subject to the usual strict scrutiny, and every amount on the books at that date was realisable in full.

“ The profit and loss account for the year ending the 29th May last shows the following result :—

Balance of undivided profits on 30th May, 1853	£38,950	2	9
Appropriated to reserved fund	3,895	0	0
	£35,055	2	9
Profits at Adelaide and London for 1853-4, after every deduction for losses, expenses, &c. ..	46,262	13	6
	£81,317	16	3
From which subtract—			
Dividend for July, 1853	£15,226	0	0
Ditto January, 1854	16,106	15	0
Income tax	505	9	2
	31,838	4	2
Balance of undivided profits on 29th May, 1854 ..	£49,479	12	1

“ From this sum the court of directors propose to set apart 10 per cent. to the reserved fund, in accordance with the charter and deed of settlement, which will equal £9,448; and the amount then remaining, being net profit, will allow of a dividend of 14 per cent. on the paid-up capital, which rate is recommended for adoption by this meeting, and if confirmed will be payable (clear of income tax) on 15th July and 15th January next.

“ The company's accounts have been duly audited; and the annual balance sheet, made up in the colony to 28th November, 1853, and in London to 29th May last, is as follows :—

LIABILITIES.			
Circulation	£167,874	10	0
Deposits	892,396	6	10
Debts due to colonial banks and other liabilities	27,565	5	3
Carried forward.. .. .	£1,087,836	2	1

Brought forward	..	..	..	£1,087,836	2	1
Bills payable	..	..	..	51,721	10	5
Dividends not applied for	..	..	..	44	16	0
Capital paid up	..	..	..	280,475	0	0
Reserved fund	..	..	..	34,357	8	6
Profit and loss	..	..	..	44,531	12	1
				£1,498,966	9	1

ASSETS.

Coin and bullion	..	..	..	£809,946	15	5
Bills receivable and securities	..	..	..	560,933	7	10
Debts due from colonial banks and other assets				92,114	9	10
Open policies, &c.	..	..	..	2,410	6	1
Bank premises and furniture	..	..	..	5,204	18	2
Three-and-a-quarter per cent. stock for reserved fund				28,356	11	9
				£1,498,966	9	1

"The court of directors have to announce that Edward Stephens, Esq., on his return to Adelaide, forthwith resumed the management of the bank. He has furnished the court with further satisfactory evidence of the successful management of Mr. George Tinline; in consideration of which, and his eminent services in connection with the Bullion Act, the court have appointed him secretary of the bank in Adelaide. At present, he requires a cessation from business, and is consequently in this country, with the view of recruiting his health.

"The enlarged business of the bank has led to the increase of the local board, which, in addition to John Hector and John Morphett, Esqrs., now includes E. I. S. Trimmer, Esq., who has formerly acted with much advantage, and Samuel Davenport, Esq., who has long established himself in the colony, and is much respected by the court. These gentlemen enjoy the confidence of the colonists, and Mr. Stephens derives great benefit from their co-operations.

"The most friendly relations exist between this establishment and the other local banks, which feeling cannot fail to be of mutual advantage in the monetary affairs of the colony.

"The court, in accordance with the arrangements stated in the last report for issuing the remaining shares at a premium of £22 per share, allotted to proprietors who solicited them 644 of the said shares. From the premiums thus obtained, an addition of £14,168 has been made to the reserved fund, which, with the dividends received on the investments and the amount appropriated from this year's profits, enlarges the fund to £34,357 8s. 6d.

"The prospects of the colony are of the most encouraging nature. Capital in abundance is ready for profitable occupation; schemes, both of public and private importance, only wait a supply of labour to be accomplished. The mining interests alone would immediately afford profitable employment for many thousands of people. The successful navigation of the Murray offers much prospective advantage to South Australia, and by judicious measures, and the necessary enterprise, the colony will become the depôt for a large increase of trade.

"The court of directors will endeavour, by care and prudence, to assist in developing these great resources of wealth, and also to maintain the bank in prosperity and general usefulness."

The balance sheet and profit and loss accounts were next read.

The Chairman hoped the proprietors would consider the report sufficiently eloquent to preclude the necessity of his troubling them with many remarks; and he was sure he would best show his respect for their valuable time by simply moving the resolution which he held in his hand, as by so doing he would give an opportunity for discussion. He should be happy to answer any questions. He moved that the report be received, adopted, printed, and circulated among the proprietors; and that the statements of accounts now submitted be approved.

Mr. Whiteman had great pleasure in seconding the resolution.

Mr. Wells said he saw the large item of assets, £809,946, coin and bullion. He wished to inquire how this matter stood, because coin and bullion were an inactive sort of security.

The Chairman said, hon. proprietors were, doubtless, aware of the peculiar circumstances which arose during the management of Mr. Tinline. There were then extraordinary discoveries of gold, which led to a general derangement of affairs, and which gave rise to the Bullion Act, from which assayed bullion became the circulation. Under this act, a large amount of gold was bought; their paper circulation went up to what they were permitted by law to issue, and it became their duty to send out coin to receive the bullion. This operation saturated the colony with coin; but, knowing their liabilities against the bullion, they sent coin till there was a cry of "enough!" and simultaneously with sending out the coin the assayed bullion came over here, and very large profits were realised by these operations.

Mr. De Salis wished some information on a matter not so immediately concerning this company as the colony generally. He wanted to know what was the present position or aspect of railway enterprise. He alluded to the railway which was to join the port to the city, and the railway which was designed to join the Murray. He knew the company had a large capital, and had the opportunity to promote such enterprises—not that he meant to say that any part of their funds should be so invested; but he thought they might do well to favour such enterprises, looking to their position in the colony. He begged to put a question as to the 644 shares—new shares—which had been allotted to proprietors; how many more remained in the hands of the board?

The Chairman said that their funds were not applicable to railways. But the question was an important one, because, by a recent dispatch, Mr. Stephens alluded to a loan on the part of the Government to carry out the railways referred to as rapidly as possible; but the real, the immense difficulty in carrying out works of that sort, was, not the want of resources, for there was plenty of capital, but the want of labour. On the subject of the shares, all they could do was to issue them at a premium to those who liked to take them, and, according to the report, 644 shares were so sold. They issued all that were asked for, but they came to a resolution that the residue should be sold at a certain price, but he could not mention what that price was.

Mr. Chalmers hoped the paragraph in the report, which alluded to Mr. Tinline's exertions, did not mean to convey the idea that he had not been rewarded to a greater extent than the mere appointment as secretary in Adelaide.

The Chairman assured the hon. gentleman that Mr. Tinline's services had been appreciated in a manner which had been very satisfactory to that gentleman.

A Proprietor asked, what was the maximum of the reserve fund?

The Chairman replied it was £100,000.

Mr. H. Wheeler, in reference to the shares which the directors had determined should be parted with only at a certain rate, which they did not name, said, that had he been present when such a resolution was passed, he should have urged their being distributed *pro ratâ*; at present those shares were an

incubus, and had a prejudicial effect on the value of the shares, as far as proprietors were concerned.

The Chairman said there would be no difficulty in issuing these shares.

In reply to a question from Mr. Wells, as to the exchanges last year,

The Chairman said the bills drawn on them in 1852 were in round numbers 1,566, and in money £208,000; in 1853, in numbers 2,649, representing £513,000. Of course, the gold transactions were enormous.

Mr. Richards moved, and Mr. Brewster seconded, a resolution that a dividend be paid of 14 per cent. on the paid-up capital, in the manner set forth in the report.

The two directors retiring by rotation, and the auditors, were re-elected, and the usual complimentary votes of thanks to the directors and managers followed.

LONDON JOINT-STOCK BANK.

THE half-yearly meeting of the proprietors was held at the Bank, Princes-street, on the 20th of July, Mr. F. B. Goldney in the chair, when the following report and accounts were unanimously adopted:—

The Chairman, in opening the proceedings, said he had a most agreeable duty to perform in meeting them on that occasion, and presenting the flattering report which he had now the pleasure of submitting.

"The directors have again much pleasure in meeting the proprietors, to place before them the annexed statement of the liabilities and assets of the bank, and of the profit and loss account for the half-year ending the 30th of June last, by which it will be observed that the net profits amounted to £54,695 7s. 3d. From the continued prosperity of the bank, the directors have felt themselves justified in increasing the dividend, and have accordingly appropriated £30,000 for the payment of a dividend at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum, which has left a balance of £24,695 7s. 3d., as undivided profit, to the credit of the current half-year. The dividend will be payable on and after Friday, the 28th instant."

Liabilities and Assets, Friday, 30th June, 1854.

Dr.—To capital paid up, viz., 60,000 shares at £10 each	£600,000	0	0	
Amount due by the bank	5,837,900	10	0	
Amount of the Guarantee Fund, 31st December, 1853	£151,272	19	6	
To six months' interest on ditto, at £3 per cent. per annum	2,269	4	0	
		153,549	3	6
To amount carried to profit and loss account	106,048	9	8	
	£6,697,498	3	2	
Cr.—By Exchequer bills, India bonds, &c.	£689,018	8	11	
Bills discounted, loans and cash	5,979,704	14	3	
Building, furniture, &c. in Princes-street	£20,025	0	0	
Ditto ditto in Pall Mall	8,750	0	0	
		28,775	0	0
	£6,697,498	3	2	

Profit and Loss Account of the London Joint-Stock Bank, for the Half-year ending 30th June, 1854.

Dr.—To current expenses, proportion of building expenses, directors' remuneration, bad debts, income tax, &c.	£24,370	9	2
Amount carried to profit and loss, new account, being rebate of interest on bills discounted not yet due	26,982	13	3
Dividend account for the payment of half-a-year's dividend, at the rate of £10 per cent. per annum, upon £600,000, amount of paid-up capital upon 60,000 shares	30,000	0	0
Balance, being undivided profit for the past half-year	24,695	7	3
	<u>£106,048</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>8</u>
Cr.—By balance brought down	£106,048	9	8

Mr. Borradaile said the chairman had mentioned that it was an agreeable duty to meet the proprietors, and he (Mr. Borradaile) was well aware that the proprietors were gratified in meeting the directors, to receive such an encouraging report. On previous occasions he had put questions to the chairman relative to the reserve fund, but he thought they had sufficient confidence in the directors to allow that point to remain with them. He had, however, on no occasion asked questions upon that subject from vexatious motives, but simply with the view of eliciting information of interest to the proprietary generally; and with the same view he now begged to ask the chairman whether there was any truth in the extraordinary reports that had gone about, of the bank having lost a large sum of money—say from £20,000 to £30,000, —[A Proprietor—"Some say £50,000"]—upon spurious and fictitious warrants that had lately been in circulation? He presumed that the directors would have great pleasure in answering that question, because, from examining the accounts, he found that the increase in the items, debts, general expenditure, &c., had been between the present and the last half-year from £17,000 to £24,000. That, he presumed, would represent the difference of any loss, even if it reached that amount.

The Chairman said he was very happy to answer the question. He could assure the honourable proprietor that the report was utterly erroneous. The loss they had made in the gross amount was represented in the figures alluded to by Mr. Borradaile. He was reminded by the deputy-chairman that the entire loss upon these fictitious warrants was under £5,000.

The Deputy-Chairman—And the whole of it is written off, and included in the present accounts. (Hear, hear.)

A dividend of 10 per cent. was then declared, and a vote of thanks was passed to the directors.

Mr. Hodgkinson said they had another duty to perform, viz., to offer a vote of thanks to the manager, Mr. Pollard.

[The motion having been seconded and carried].

Mr. Pollard said he appreciated the compliment paid him. It would stimulate him to use the same exertions as he had heretofore for the interests of the bank, which he had no doubt would prosper, since its operations were regulated with great caution.

UNION BANK OF LONDON.

THE annual meeting of this bank took place at the establishment, Princes-street, on the 12th of July, Sir Peter Laurie (the Governor), in the chair, when the following report (read by Mr. W. Laurie, the secretary) was presented and unanimously adopted:—

"The directors have much pleasure in presenting the fifteenth annual report, which affords the most satisfactory evidence that the progress of the business in every department, and the prosperity of the bank during the past year, have not been exceeded in any period since the establishment of the company. The profits of the year ending the 30th of June last amount to £84,631 11s. 2d., after allowing for all current charges, and for the sum of £107,739 17s. 5d. interest paid and due to customers on their current and deposit accounts. On a careful consideration of the accounts, on the 31st of December last, the directors felt justified in raising the dividend from 8 to 10 per cent. per annum for the half-year then ended; the profits of the last six months have fully equalled their expectations, and the directors have now the satisfaction not only of declaring a dividend at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum, but of adding a bonus of 5 per cent., making together 15 per cent. for the past year, clear of income tax. After payment of the dividend for the year, and the bonus, amounting to the sum of £63,435, and the usual appropriation of £500 in reduction of the preliminary expenses, there will remain an unappropriated surplus profit of £20,696 11s. 2d. to be carried to the credit of profit and loss new account. The extended business at the Regent-street branch having rendered necessary an enlargement of the existing accommodation, additional freehold premises adjoining have been purchased for that purpose; and, the directors having let off on lease such portions as were not required for the business, ample space has been obtained at a very moderate cost to the bank. The directors are of opinion that the time has now arrived when the reserved shares may be appropriated with benefit to the bank and advantage to the proprietors; they have therefore resolved (in pursuance of the powers prescribed by the deed of settlement) to issue them to the present proprietors in the proportion of two additional shares for every five shares now held, at a premium of £5 per share. The paid-up capital will then amount to £600,000, which the directors feel convinced has become desirable from the magnitude of the business, and will extend the influence and augment the prosperity of the bank. The premiums on the reserved shares will be appropriated, first, to raise the 'reserved fund' to £120,000, being 20 per cent. of the paid-up capital, beyond which amount it is not at present intended to increase that fund; and, next, to the entire liquidation of the preliminary expenses, which have been hitherto in course of repayment by annual instalments. The appropriation of the reserved shares will leave 794 undisposed of, and affords an opportunity, which the directors have long desired, of expressing in some substantial manner that entire and cordial approbation which the proprietors have so frequently recorded of the eminent services of Mr. W. W. Scrimgeour, the general manager, as well as of other valuable officers of the company. It would be an agreeable duty to the directors to enlarge upon the manner in which Mr. Scrimgeour has discharged his arduous and most responsible duties; but the present position of the bank best attests his unwearied zeal and tried ability, which have so materially contributed to that result, and the directors feel assured of the hearty concurrence of the proprietors in the proposition to appropriate the residuary shares at par to Mr. Scrimgeour, as well as to Mr. Barton, the assistant manager; Mr. Clack, the manager of the Regent-street branch; Mr. Wight, the manager of the Charing-cross branch; and Mr. Walter Laurie, the secretary; who have each, in their several departments, well entitled themselves to the respect and confidence of the proprietors."

LIABILITIES.

Paid-up capital, £10 per share on 42,290 shares	£422,900	0	0
Due by the bank on current accounts, deposit receipts (including interest accrued), circular notes, &c.	7,031,477	18	7
Reserved fund, invested in Bank Stock, as per contra	50,000	0	0
	£7,504,377	18	7
Surplus profit	84,631	11	2
	£7,589,009	9	9

ASSETS.

Cash in the bank, in the Bank of England, loans, Exchequer bill, and other Government securities, bills discounted, &c.	£7,442,323	4	4
£25,035 13s. 11d. Bank Stock (reserved fund)	50,000	0	0
Bank premises, consisting of freehold buildings in Princes-street, Mansion-house-street, and Argyll-place; and lease and fixtures of 4, Pall-mall East	66,541	5	5
Preliminary expenses	9,000	0	0
Half-year's dividend, to the 31st of December, 1853, amount carried forward	21,145	0	0
	£7,589,009	9	9

APPROPRIATION OF THE SURPLUS.

Dividends on paid-up capital, viz. :—			
Half-year to the 31st of December, 1853, already paid at 5 per cent	£21,145	0	0
Half-year, to the 30th of June, 1854, now declared at 5 per cent.	21,145	0	0
Bonus, at 5 per cent.	21,145	0	0
	£63,435	0	0
Proportion of preliminary expenses	500	0	0
Undivided profit—carried to profit and loss new account, for rebate of interest on bills not yet due, income tax, &c.	20,696	11	2
	£84,631	11	2
Profit, as above, after deducting all expenses paid or due, and interest (£107,739 17s. 5d.) allowed to customers on their current and deposit accounts	£84,631	11	2

At the conclusion of the report, which was received with great applause, The Governor said, he thought he need hardly ask the proprietors how they liked the statement, the manner in which they had received it amply testifying approbation. (Cheers.) It therefore remained with the directors to declare a dividend at the rate of 10 per cent., with a bonus of 5 per cent., both clear of income tax, payable on and after Thursday, the 20th instant. It being impossible to make a stronger representation of their affairs than that con-

tained in the report, he would only mention that since last year the assets of the bank had increased £2,000,000, the dividend had been doubled, and the amount paid to customers for interest more than doubled. (Hear, hear.) The bank having been established fifteen years, the success of management had enabled the directors to make, on the completion of that term, a dividend of 15 per cent. (Applause.) He hoped next year the dividend might reach 16 per cent. (Hear, and laughter.) Having been enabled to divide a dividend at the rate just announced, it showed that their success had been achieved through the support of their friends and the confidence of the public in their establishment. (Hear, hear.) The report, having been seconded by Mr. W. Brown, was then carried in the usual form.

Mr. Anderton was very pleased with that part of the report which referred to the services of the manager, and the plan proposed to acknowledge them. (Hear.) It was a debt long due to him, and the recommendation did credit to the directors; for, however useful and skilful in their vocation the governor and his colleagues might be, the present success would not have been attained without the assistance and indefatigable exertions of Mr. Scrimgeour. (Cheers.) The solid business habits and integrity of purpose of the manager were well known, and deserved to be appreciated; for, so mindful had he been of the interest of the establishment, that he had some time ago refused an increase to his salary, though voluntarily offered by the directors, because he considered that the bank had not then arrived at the maturity which it had since reached. (Hear, hear.) Having given notice at the last meeting of a proposal to vote a service of plate, valued at £500 to Mr. Scrimgeour, as a testimonial from the proprietors, he (Mr. Anderton) willingly now withdraw it, preferring that the more substantial recommendation of the directors should be agreed to; and he had no doubt Mr. Geach, who supported him on that occasion, would second the motion, so that the suggestion in the report might receive immediate approval.

Mr. Anderton then moved a special vote of thanks to Mr. Scrimgeour for his services, with which was incorporated the opinion of the proprietary, that the course of appropriating the residue of the reserved shares, as proposed, was satisfactory.

Mr. Geach, M.P., cordially seconded the resolution; his long friendship and old connection with Mr. Scrimgeour, which dated from the time when they were in the Bank of England together, rendering it a most gratifying task. (Hear, hear.) While alluding to the success of the Union Bank of London, he must be permitted to remind the shareholders that the large dividend secured arose from the liberal manner in which they treated their customers. (Cheers.) There had been no violation of the original agreement for allowing interest, and then altering and discontinuing it; but, following out the principle with which business was started, they had, so to speak, bought the raw material, and having used it advantageously, were enabled to allow those who supported them to participate in the obtained accession of profits. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. Mitchell, while supporting the motion, hoped that, as the leading officers had received consideration, the subordinates had not been forgotten. At this period, an increased income tax and the augmented price of provisions pressed severely upon their resources, and any favourable concession would, doubtless, be received with gratitude. (Cheers.)

Mr. Stewart expressed similar sentiments.

Mr. W. Brown considered it was a question of discretion in the directors. (Loud cries of "Hear, hear," and counter-cries of "No, no.") If confidence were reposed in the board, they ought not to be interfered with. Their conduct in this respect, he was ready to affirm, would be strictly honourable. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. Borradaile said, the proper way to introduce the question, would be to ask the governor if any increase had lately been made in the clerks' salaries?

The Governor replied that all the clerks' salaries were augmented in January last. He was sure that if the gentleman who had brought forward the subject made inquiries of the scale of salaries in other establishments, they would find that their own was the highest, and he believed their officers and clerks were well satisfied of the fact. The Union Bank had always paid good salaries, commencing at £80 per annum, and inadequate proportions subsequently, and the result was, that a number of clerks whom they had in their employment had come from other banks. (Hear, hear.)

The motion was then put and was carried unanimously.

Mr. Borradaile—I should wish to ask one question. A variety of reports have gone abroad with respect to fictitious warrants in circulation, and it is stated that they are largely held by some of the banks and bill brokers. Does the Union Bank of London unfortunately possess any of them?

Mr. W. W. Scrimgeour—Not one; we never had anything to do with them; some were offered, but I refused them. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. Borradaile then considered that the report was the most flattering and satisfactory that had ever been presented to a meeting of joint-stock bank proprietors.

The Governor, in speaking of the success of the bank and its management, stated that the officers had been selected for their known abilities, and not through patronage or undue influence. It was to this straightforward course they were indebted for having obtained the services of Mr. Scrimgeour, Mr. Clack, and their other talented managers.

Mr. Geach having moved that a full length portrait of Sir Peter Laurie should be painted and hung in the board room, and the proposal having been unanimously agreed to,—a tribute evidently felt deeply by the governor,—

Mr. Scrimgeour was called upon to return thanks. He said he had the pleasing though arduous duty, on the part of the other officers and himself, to thank the shareholders for the handsome and generous manner in which they had adopted the recommendation of the directors (hear, hear); and the value of the gift was greatly enhanced by the unanimous manner in which the vote had been passed. It was, indeed, "gilding refined gold" to receive such testimony of the value of their services; and in offering them his grateful acknowledgments, he would promise to use his best exertions for the interests of the bank, as he was sure his brother officers would do. (Hear, hear.) In alluding to the future prospects of the establishment, he might remind them that he had been sanguine enough to predict that when the dividend was raised from 7 to 8 per cent., that a higher rate of distribution would be reached; and he thought he was now fairly entitled to say he had kept his word. (Cheers.) With a dividend of even 15 per cent. he trusted that they would see no retrogression; an increased capital and the improvement in the premises, combined with the great attraction to business, through the influence of the directors, inducing him to anticipate that the amount had not yet touched its *maximum*. (Applause.)

The meeting then separated.

ORIENTAL BANK CORPORATION.

A SPECIAL general meeting of the shareholders of this corporation was held on Saturday, the 1st of July, at their offices in Walbrook, for the purpose of directing an increase of capital, according to the terms of the charter.

Mr. H. G. Gordon presided, and explained that the object of the directors in calling the meeting was to obtain their sanction to an increase of capital, which they considered would tend to the further development of the under-

taking, and to the benefit of the bank. They had taken the preliminary step of applying to the Lords of the Treasury for a warrant to authorise the raising of £500,000; but at present it was only intended to call up £250,000. The resolution to be submitted would nevertheless be the full £500,000, in order that, should the wants of the bank at some future time require it, the directors might be enabled to issue shares for the balance. It was proposed to raise the money in this way—for every three of the existing shares one new share would be allotted—those proprietors who held less than three to be entitled in the same proportion to one-third of a new share for every old share they held. The amount to be paid upon each new share would be £30—that was £25, the nominal value of the share, and £5 premium, to be paid in three instalments; the first on the 1st day of October next; the second on the 1st of July, 1855; and the third on the 1st January, 1856. Those who paid the whole of the £30 on the 1st of October, would be entitled to participate in the dividend for the three months ending 31st December, 1855.

Mr. Fuller then read the Treasury warrant authorising the proposed increase, after which a resolution in accordance with the proposition of the directors was put and carried unanimously; and the chairman having intimated that a confirmatory meeting would be called in August, the meeting separated.

LONDON AND WESTMINSTER BANK.

THE half-yearly meeting of the proprietors of this bank was held at the bank premises, Lothbury, on the 20th of July, Mr. J. L. Ricardo, M.P., in the chair, when the following report was read and unanimously adopted:—

“The directors have the pleasure to report that, after making provision for all bad and doubtful debts, paying the income tax, and setting apart £2,000 towards the new buildings in Lothbury and Bloomsbury, the net profits of the half-year amount to £73,900 19s. 5d. Out of these profits the directors now declare a dividend at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum; they also declare a bonus of 3 per cent. upon the paid-up capital. After these payments are made, the balance of the profit and loss account will be £13,900 19s. 5d., and the rest or surplus fund will remain at £125,307 1s. 6d. The directors have also the pleasure to report that, on the 8th of last month, they were admitted into the Clearing House—an event which they believe will increase the profits of the bank.”

Statement of Account, June 30th, 1854.

<i>Dr.</i> To proprietors for paid-up capital	1,000,000	0	0
To amount due by the bank on deposits, circular notes, &c.	6,892,470	19	8
To rest or surplus fund	125,307	1	6
To net profits of the past half-year	73,900	19	5
	<u>£8,091,679</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>7</u>
<i>Cr.</i> By Government stock, Exchequer bills, and India bonds	1,457,415	17	3
By other securities, including bills discounted, loans to customers, &c.	5,806,865	3	7
By cash in hand	827,397	19	9
	<u>£8,091,679</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>7</u>

Profit and Loss.

Dr. To total expenditure of the six establishments, including rent, taxes, salaries, stationery, &c. ..	£28,335	17	3
To amount set apart towards the new buildings in Lothbury and Bloomsbury	2,000	0	0
To payment of the dividend now declared, at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum, for the last half-year on the paid-up capital of £1,000,000 ..	30,000	0	0
To bonus of 3 per cent. on the capital	30,000	0	0
To balance of profit and loss account	13,900	19	5
To rest or surplus fund	125,307	1	6
	<u>£223,543</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>2</u>
Cr. By rest or surplus fund on the 31st December, 1853 ..	£125,307	1	6
By gross profits of the last half-year, after paying the income tax, and making provision for all bad and doubtful debts	98,236	16	8
	<u>£223,543</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>2</u>

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report, said that, whatever diffidence he might have felt in accepting the post which he had then the honour to fill, it certainly did not arise from any want of confidence in the bank itself. The prosperity of the concern was steadily increasing, its credit was rising higher and higher, and they were at length in a position to receive a dividend equal to 12 per cent. per annum. Among the subjects for congratulation was the admission of joint-stock banks to the benefits of the Clearing House; one of their own body, Mr. Alderman Salomons, having been the main instrument in overcoming the obstacles previously interposed to the attainment of that end. There was one other subject on which it was necessary for him to remark—he meant the surplus fund. It would have been very easy for the directors, by taking the £13,900 which had been placed to the account of profit and loss, and by deducting £25,000 from the rest, to have given a dividend equal to 20 per cent.; but, after mature deliberation, they had come to the conclusion that, looking at the state of politics and of the commercial world, and having regard to the principles which had hitherto guided them in the administration of their affairs, it would not be prudent to diminish the amount laid aside as a reserve fund. (Hear, hear.) It might be said that they had nothing to do with posterity; but to that he should reply that the reserve fund was represented in the price of the shares (hear, hear)—and that it was not for the sake of posterity, but for their own sakes, in order that they might retain the confidence of the public, that the reserve was maintained. (Hear, hear.) The directors would not pledge themselves not to increase that fund, should circumstances require any increase. At present, they believed it would suffice to add the interest arising from the fund itself, and any fractional profits which might not be easily divisible; but circumstances might arise which would lead to a change in their views on the subject, and in that case they should feel themselves at liberty to act accordingly. As regarded the future, he saw nothing which could injure them, except differences amongst themselves; and he concluded by trusting that the proprietors would, as heretofore, have full confidence in the directors.

Sir C. Burrell, M.P., seconded the motion.

Mr. Tite contended that the credit of the bank did not at all depend on the rest, the directors having the power of calling up, if necessary, a large ad-

ditional amount of capital. He wanted the board to fix some point at which the increase of the rest was to stop. He also desired some explanation with regard to the £13,900 which was carried to the profit and loss account. It appeared to him that if that surplus had been dealt with in the usual manner, the rest, instead of being £125,000, would have been £139,000. (*Hear, hear.*)

The Chairman said the £13,900 might be considered a suspended account: that was to say, it would go to the dividend of next half-year. The principle on which the directors proposed to act was that of dividing the whole profits of the half-year, less the interest upon the reserved fund itself, and such a fraction as would not make an even amount, both of which would be added to the rest.

The report having been adopted,

Mr. Badderley moved that the rest should be reduced to £100,000.

Mr. Tite seconded the motion.

A protracted discussion ensued, which ended in the withdrawal of the motion, and the substitution for it, with the consent of the chairman, of the following resolution, which was proposed by Mr. Tite, seconded by Mr. Hodgkinson, and unanimously agreed to:—"That it be recommended to the directors that the rest be accumulated till £150,000 be raised, and that that sum be not increased except by a vote of the proprietors at a meeting, of which special notice shall be given by advertisement."

Thanks were then voted to the chairman and directors, and to Mr. J. W. Gilbert, the general manager, and the managers of the several branches.

COMMERCIAL BANK OF LONDON.

THE annual meeting of the shareholders of this bank was held at the head establishment, Lothbury, on the 18th July, Mr. Mark Hunter in the chair, when the following report was presented and unanimously adopted:—

"The directors have the satisfaction of presenting to the shareholders the fourteenth annual balance sheet, from which it will appear that, after paying all expenses, and making provision for bad and doubtful debts, the net profits of the bank amount to £36,950 0s. 11d. A dividend, at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum, for the half-year ending the 31st December, 1853, has been already paid, and the directors have now to declare a dividend for the half-year ending the 30th June, 1854, at the same rate, with a bonus of 16s. per share—both dividend and bonus free from income tax. After paying this dividend and bonus, there will remain a balance of £1,445 9s. 3d. to be carried to the reserve fund, increasing that fund to £64,012 6s. 11d."

Capital subscribed £1,500,000.

Capital paid up	£300,000	0	0
Guarantee fund invested in government securities ..	62,566	17	8
Balances due to the customers of the bank ..	1,265,903	0	8
Balance carried down after deducting bad and doubtful debts, income tax, and all charges and current expenses	36,950	0	11
	<u>£1,665,419</u>	<u>19</u>	<u>3</u>

Cash in hand, government securities, India bonds, bills discounted, &c.	<u>£1,665,419</u>	<u>19</u>	<u>3</u>
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Dividend at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum, for the half-year ending 31st December, 1853, already paid ..	£9,000 0 0
Dividend at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum, for the half-year ending 30th June, 1854	9,000 0 0
Bonus of 16s. per share, equal to 4 per cent. per annum	12,000 0 0
Rebate of interest on current bills carried to profit and loss new account	5,504 11 8
Balance carried to the guarantee fund, making that fund £64,012 6s. 11d.	1,445 9 3
	£36,950 0 11
Balance brought down	£36,950 0 11

The report having been received with applause,

The Chairman said it would be only necessary for him to make a few remarks. In the first place he would direct the attention of the shareholders to what he considered a gratifying subject, viz., the maintenance of the dividend and bonus free from income tax on the increased capital, which was now £300,000 instead of £200,000. With this increased capital they had been enabled to extend their business; and if previously they had been obstructed through the absence of room, the late improvement and enlargement in their premises would afford ample accommodation. (Hear, hear.) He would remind his fellow-proprietors, especially the new shareholders, many of whom were present, that with general co-operation further great results might be attained. (Hear, hear.) There was only one point more that he wished to allude to, viz., the admission of the joint-stock banks to the privilege of the clearing. An arrangement had been effected for that purpose, and he was pleased to know that they were working in amity with the private bankers, the whole of the banking interest being benefited by the change. (Cheers.) He concluded by submitting the report for approval.

Mr. Goddard having moved, and Mr. Price seconded the resolution, it was carried unanimously.

The dividend and bonus having also been agreed to.

Mr. Bleaden moved a vote of thanks to the directors. The proposal having been seconded, it was immediately carried.

The Chairman returned thanks, and reminded the proprietors that co-operation would effect great benefit to the business of the bank.

A vote of thanks to the manager followed.

Mr. A. R. Cutbill (the manager) said he was exceedingly indebted to the proprietors for this mark of their esteem; it was gratifying to feel that his services were so readily acknowledged, and he could assure them that he would do his utmost to deserve a continuance of the confidence reposed in him. (Hear, hear.)

THE BANK OF FRANCE.

THE *Moniteur* publishes the following monthly debtor and creditor account of the Bank of France, made up to the 13th of July:—

	DEBTOR.	F.	C.
Capital of the bank		91,250,000	0
Reserve of the bank		12,980,750	14
Reserve of the bank in landed property		4,000,000	0
Carried forward		F.108,230,750	14

Brought forward	F.108,230,750	14
Bank notes in circulation	466,897,100	0
Do. of the branch banks	134,178,975	0
Bank notes to order	5,913,634	54
Receipts payable at sight	10,239,990	0
Treasury account current, creditor	68,177,950	78
Sundry accounts current	111,055,595	70
Do. with the branch banks	31,993,053	0
Dividends payable	3,558,175	25
Discounts and sundry interests	922,068	5
Commission on deposits	3,629	5
Rediscounted during the last six months	916,188	68
Protested bills	111,057	72
Sundries	5,813,553	43
	F.947,496,721	34

	CREDITOR.	F.	C.
Cash in hand		276,951,700	41
Do. in the branch banks		174,989,103	0
Commercial bills overdue		605,069	95
Commercial bills discounted, but not yet due, of which 52,529,272f. 98c. were received from the branch banks		118,869,839	54
Do. in the branch banks		156,687,780	0
Advanced on deposit of bullion		828,100	0
Do. by the branch banks		1,330,533	0
Advanced on French public securities		18,961,636	10
Do. by the branch banks		6,574,150	0
Advanced on railway securities		39,651,400	0
Do. by the branch banks		12,621,970	0
Advanced to the state on the treaty of June 30th, 1848		65,000,000	0
Government stock reserved		10,000,000	0
Do. disposable		55,447,573	97
Hotel and furniture of the bank		4,000,000	0
Landed property of the branch banks		3,764,198	0
Expenses of the management of the bank		77,927	41
Sundries		1,135,739	96
		F.947,496,721	34

Certified by the Governor of the Bank of France, Count D'ARGOUT.

It appears from these returns that the metallic reserve has decreased during the past month 2,542,147f. in Paris, and 14,071,590f. in the branch banks. The discount accommodation has been diminished both in Paris and in the departments, in the former 14,869,368f., and in the latter 1,656,940f. The advances on public securities have fallen off in Paris 135,300f., and advanced in the departments 132,100f. The notes in circulation have increased in Paris 20,774,300f., and decreased 2,662,600f. in the departments. The Treasury account current has diminished 17,692,441f., those of private individuals have decreased 60,291,949f. in Paris, and 2,429,373f. in the departments.

Communications.

To the Editor of the Bankers' Magazine.

THE BANK CHARTER ACT.

SIR,—In your magazine for this month you have inserted a letter signed A. B., on the operation of the Bank Charter Act, in which are many valuable remarks as to the working of that act, evidently showing that the writer is well acquainted with his subject. He writes—"The law now allows any amount of credit the customers like to give, but it says it shall not exist in the most convenient form. To-day I had several customers with gold, &c., requesting my own notes in exchange; I was compelled to say, I cannot give you notes,—I will give you a receipt payable on demand," &c., &c.

This is the view I have all along taken of the absurdity of restricting a banker to a certain amount of promissory notes payable to bearer on demand, yet allowing them to borrow from the public, in the shape of deposits, money to any amount.

I think it would have been of great advantage to our Chancellors of the Exchequer, if they had in early life received a practical knowledge of banking in some of our joint-stock banks.—In performing the duties of clerks, tellers, book-keepers, cashiers, &c., they would have daily opportunities of observing parties who had accounts with the bank, checking for various amounts, and at their request paid to them in the notes of the bank, and this going on from day to day, until the notes in circulation reached that amount beyond which the act of 1844 tells you, you must not go.

They would also observe that whilst the bankers were not permitted to take gold, silver, &c., from their customers in exchange for their notes, they were allowed to receive from the same parties sums varying from £10 to £100,000 in exchange for their deposit or shop receipts.

And in referring to the balance sheet of the company they would further observe that whilst the bank could not borrow on the strength of their promissory notes, payable to bearer on demand, an amount beyond £90,000, they had been permitted to borrow from the public, on the strength of deposit receipts, money to the amount of £1,000,000.

Yours respectfully,
C. T.

Bridgewater, 13th July, 1854.

THE USURY LAWS.

SIR,—Your number for this month contains some very interesting information relative to the present state of the Usury Laws. Will you favour me with your opinion upon the following case?

We keep an account for a house resident and carrying on business in Ireland, to whom we are under advances covered by a security of real property situate in Ireland, where the legal rate of interest is 6 per cent.

The parties are willing to allow us to charge them 6 per cent. on the balance of their account for the last half-year; but the question is—would it be legal for us to do so? If they resided, and the property held in security were situate, in England it is clear we could not take above 5 per cent. Do the circumstances I have stated alter our position in that respect? Were we to sue the parties for the amount they owe us, we should have to do so through the Irish Courts; and would not the authorities of those courts be obliged to admit the legality of a charge of 6 per cent. on money secured by real pro-

perty situate in Ireland, and advanced by an English bank to persons carrying on business in Ireland? Or would the present Usury Laws of England govern the case, and make it illegal for us to charge a higher rate of interest than 5 per cent.?

I am, Sir, yours obediently,

Lancashire, July, 1854.

A. B.

[We think the question is, where is the contract made? and not where do the parties reside? If the Irish Courts regarded this as a foreign contract, they would, we think, be guided by the law of the country where the contract is made, and the same with regard to the English Courts. In the late case of *Gibbs v. Fremant*, 22 *Law Journal*, Ex. 302, it was decided that the drawer of a bill of exchange which has been dishonoured is liable to pay interest on it after the rate which prevails at the place where the bill was drawn. We do not, however, feel so clear as to give a confident answer to the question.]

Reviews.

The Gilbert Prize Essay. By Granville Sharp. Messrs. Groombridge and Sons, Paternoster Row.

THE new edition of this work was published the day of the re-opening of the Crystal Palace; and Mr. Sharp appears to have well employed his time since the prize of £100 was awarded, in endeavouring to complete and render permanently useful that which, however comparatively valuable, certainly admitted of improvement. The present volume contains much additional matter, with an account of some inventions and novel processes which have, in some cases, been recently made public. These, with many other improvements, have enlarged the volume to a considerable extent, containing, with the appendix, nearly 800 pages. One-half of this has, at first sight, very much the appearance of a "Prize Essay Advertiser," which is calculated to deprive the recommendations contained in it of very much of their weight, if not to render them valueless. The author in his preface, however, assures his readers that this is not the case:—that whether they be called advertisements or not, they are not paid for; that the opinions upon rival and competing plans and systems are entirely unbiassed; that the matter in the appendix is merely introduced there as the most convenient place, and to be read by those who care to have additional information upon any special subject, and to save the general reader from needless prolixity. There are a great variety of illustrations, some of indifferent character—mere wood cuts; but there are others—steel and copper-plate engravings, of the very first quality, and nearly all are well executed. There is a good index; a list of illustrations, with reference numbers; and a directory, by which the residence of any person referred to may at once be found. A considerable part of the book is devoted to the subject of engraving and printing bank notes and cheques, with a view to the prevention of fraudulent imitation or forgery by the alteration of an amount. Specimens are given of various plans; one system is set against another, and the valuable features as well as the assailable points are carefully distinguished and referred to. Some of the plans recommended will be new to the majority of our readers, and surprise will be generally felt at the copies which are given of documents upon which reliance has been placed as inimitable. In some of these there is no difficulty at all in discerning the original from the counterfeit; others are excellent; and it must be remembered that notes are presented frequently in a very dishevelled condition, in which it would be much more difficult to discriminate between a good engraving and a

tolerable copy. The book is well printed—handsomely and substantially got up; and, as it contains much information of a practical and valuable character, it will, doubtless, meet the success it deserves.

Lessons on the Phenomena of Industrial Life and Conditions of Industrial Success. Edited by the Rev. RICHARD DAWES, M.A., Dean of Hereford. Groombridge and Sons, Paternoster-row.

THIS is a volume that not only deserves to be largely circulated in public and private schools, but may even be studied with advantage by adults. The relations of capital and labour, the value and use of money, and the agencies exercised by industry and skill in the realisation of material wealth, are described in such a lucid manner that these lessons may be in reality said to constitute a hand-book of political economy.

The Savings Bank and the Fireside. Groombridge and Sons, Paternoster-row. A VALUABLE little treatise which deserves extensive circulation. It does infinite credit to the author's head and hands, the principles inculcated respecting frugality, temperance, &c. being presented in a most readable shape. Sanctioned by the Earl of Shaftesbury and other distinguished philanthropists, it is sure to succeed in effecting a large amount of good among the working classes.

Notes of the Month.

DEATH OF MR. PAUL MOON JAMES.—We regret to have to record the sudden death of this gentleman, who, for the last eighteen years, has been managing director of the Manchester and Salford Bank. On Sunday he was apparently quite well, and attended church as usual. On Monday he was at the bank, but complained of breathlessness. It was suggested that he should remain at home for a day or two, and he did so during Tuesday; but was again at the bank for an hour on Wednesday, though evidently quite ill. On Thursday he again remained at his residence, Summerville House, Pendleton. Mr. James, we believe, was a native of Exeter, and commenced life in a banking house at Bristol. Thence he went to Birmingham, where he took the management of the bank of Messrs. Galton, and afterwards became their partner, the firm being "Galtons and James." His partners, having amassed a considerable fortune, retired from business; and, after winding up the concern, Mr. James, on the commencement of the Birmingham Banking Company, in 1829, accepted the position of their manager. In August, 1836, when the Manchester and Salford Bank was founded, he came to preside over its operations as managing director, the duties of which office he has ably discharged ever since. Mr. James possessed some literary and artistic taste, was the author of several poems, and sketched gracefully. In Birmingham he was long connected with its Philosophical Society; and in the earlier years of his residence here, he took much interest in the proceedings of the Manchester Literary and Philosophical Society.

SHARE SPECULATION IN BRAZIL.—The commercial accounts from Brazil, received by the *Severn*, describe a speculative mania in shares which had prevailed for several weeks in the Rio market. The inflation was chiefly observable in the price of bank shares, but those of steam, gas, and other companies participated in the movement. The quotation of the new National Bank, on which the instalments are now in course of payment, had advanced from 50 to 195 premium. It then receded to 104, whence it again recovered to 150, and at the departure of the packet it was 130 to 135. The shares of the Old Brazil Bank had risen from 110 premium to 320, and had closed at 240. From the state of the exchanges, which is leading to an exportation of gold, this inflation will probably not be long maintained.

BANK ROBBERY AT CHELMSFORD.—At the last general quarter sessions, at Chelmsford, George Jennings, aged 33, late one of the cashiers in Messrs. Sparrows' bank, was indicted for embezzling £1,000, the moneys of his employers. Much confidence had been placed in the prisoner; but one morning in the early part of last year he was missed from the establishment, and, on examination of his books, it was discovered that there was a deficiency of £1,000 in his accounts. He was found to have communicated with Messrs. Baines and Co., of Liverpool, relative to securing a passage to Australia, and the ship he was supposed to be on board of was accompanied by the police about thirty miles out to sea, in the hope of capturing the prisoner, but he was found not to be with it. The prisoner contrived to evade all search by the police until a few weeks back, when he was discovered at Whitehaven. He admitted being the party, but said he understood that his uncle had been arranging the matter by paying the account. The prisoner was found guilty, and sentenced to nine months' imprisonment in Springfield gaol, with hard labour.

ASSAY OF GOLD AND SILVER WARE.—In consequence of the impediments experienced in many of the manufactures of gold ware in the United Kingdom from the existing law, which prohibits a lower standard than 18 carats, a bill has been introduced by the Government into Parliament, granting power to the Crown to authorise by an Order in Council the adoption of a lower quality. The same bill also provides that gold and silver wares may be assayed at any lawful assay-office, wherever manufactured.

SAVINGS BANKS.—A bill has just been introduced by the Government for continuing for four years the Irish Savings Banks Act of the 11th and 12th of Victoria, and for allowing the funds of friendly societies to be deposited in savings banks, without restrictions as to amount, under such regulations as shall be prescribed by the Commissioners for the Reduction of the National Debt.

THE LATE MERCANTILE FAILURES.—It is estimated that the failures, English and foreign, which have occurred since the commencement of the year represent in value an amount of about £3,000,000 sterling, and that the assets are less than £800,000.

INFLUX OF SOVEREIGNS FROM AUSTRALIA.—The turn of the exchanges in Australia will have the effect of sending home a considerable quantity of the sovereigns shipped about eighteen months since to purchase gold. Already several amounts are advised *en route* for England, and the *Golden Age*, in her freight of £45,256, brought £3,290 in sovereigns.

BANK MOVEMENTS.

The Sydney banks have raised the rate of discount to 6, 7 and 8 per cent, according to the dates of bills.

The Master in Chancery charged with the winding-up of the "Borough of St. Marylebone Joint-Stock Banking Company" has made a call of £1 10s. per share, payable by the 19th July.

A second repayment of £10 per share on the capital stock of the British Colonial Bank and Loan Company is announced by the directors.

In the matter of the Royal Bank of Australia, it is proposed, on the 5th July, to make a call of £100 per share on all the contributories.

The Bank of Upper Canada, Toronto, have declared a dividend of $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. for the last half-year. The Commercial Bank of the Midland District of Kingston, Canada, have declared a similar dividend for the same period.

It is stated that the Indian bank with which the Chartered Bank of Asia proposes to amalgamate is the Mercantile Bank of India, and that the latter is supported by a very influential list of directors and shareholders. At the meeting Mr. Ayrton mentioned this distinctly; but the chairman made no reference to the name of the establishment, neither is it alluded to in the report.

The authorities at Havana have appointed a commission to form the basis of a Bank of Issue, in which the Government is to take shares to the extent of half a million of dollars, but to have no right to interfere with the management, except in controlling the issue of notes. The public money now deposited in the Treasury will be placed in the new bank, the capital of which, to begin with, is to be two and a half millions of dollars; but this amount will, no doubt, be shortly increased.

The advices from India state that Mr. W. Maples, recently appointed secretary and treasurer to the Bank of Bengal, died at Calcutta, on the 18th of May.

Monetary Intelligence.

WITH the exception of the additional vote of £3,000,000 for war purposes, and the changeable state of the weather, there have been few events in the course of July to exercise an important influence on financial affairs. Credit, although it has been on the average well maintained, is likely to be interfered with, through the unfavourable disclosures made in connection with the failures of Davidson and Gordon, and Cole Brothers. In Mincing-lane, the effect has been more apparent than in other quarters, the difficulties attending the negotiation of advances being considerably increased. The late heat and fine days having greatly improved the prospects of the harvest, there is rather more easiness in the money market; and the rates would be lower, could the shipments of specie to the East and the Continent be permanently arrested. While any uncertainty remains on this subject, it is not expected that an important reduction will take place; but if the crops generally turn out well, one great source of anxiety will have been removed. Although the arrivals of gold from Australia have largely augmented—about £1,500,000 having been reported during the last three weeks—the principal portion has been absorbed by purchases for export. There has, in consequence, been little alteration in the stock held by the Bank. The quotation for discounts in Lombard-street is $5\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., and the bill brokers continue to allow $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. for deposits.

The amount applicable this quarter, out of revenue, to the reduction of the National Debt, is £888,103, being a fourth part of the surplus for the year ending the 5th of April last; but, in the present state of the Government finances, it will be employed in the redemption of deficiency bills.

The fluctuations in Consols have taken a range of $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., and have principally been produced by the prospects of finance and the state of the weather. The accounts settled in the course of the month have passed over without any great difficulty, although one or two small failures have occurred; but it is generally understood that the members of the Stock Exchange have, as a body, suffered severely from the late sudden variation in prices. Previously to the late favourable alteration in the season, the market lost all its buoyancy; and quotations having sunk to a low point, the spasmodic nature of the reaction caused fluctuations of 1 and $1\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. per diem. Such "cutting" margins as these may be well imagined to have caused serious loss to those engaged in business, however circumspectly their operations may have been conducted. The additional vote of £3,000,000 for our troops in the East

created some heaviness when first announced; but there has since been a recovery, which the accounts of the progress of the harvest are calculated to maintain. Consols have been $94\frac{1}{2}$ and $90\frac{1}{2}$, and they are now (the 27th July) $92\frac{1}{2}$. Exchequer bills have varied between 5s. premium and 1s. discount, and may be at present quoted 1s. discount to 2s. premium. The series A Exchequer bonds have been issued, and bear a moderate premium—say $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$.

In foreign securities, the great feature has been a decline of about 4 per cent. in Spanish Three per Cents; the revolution, together with a re-organisation of the Cabinet at Madrid, having induced speculative sales. From 44 the price gradually receded to 36; but a trifling re-action has, within the last few days, been apparent, and 37 is for the moment the current quotation. Peruvian has fluctuated about 2 per cent., the tendency being less favourable than it was; and Russian shows a decided fall of an equal amount. In this latter case, the prolongation of hostilities must, it is considered, greatly affect the resources of the Czar, already crippled as they have been by the enormous expenditure of the last eighteen months.

Railway shares have experienced a marked depreciation. At the latter end of June, it will be remembered, the operations for the rise had become extensive. These were continued through the early part of July, when the highest point was reached. An unfavourable impression was then produced, by the doubtful state of the weather, and the market sympathising with Consols a reaction of from £4 to £6 per share on the leading securities took place. The same causes which then influenced the English Funds, exercised a similar effect in this department, and quotations now manifest greater firmness, few speculative sales being pressed. The approach of the half-yearly meetings, and the financial results of the past six months, are awaited with anxiety, as upon an average estimate of the dividends declared will depend the future stability of quotations. The whole of the traffic returns have been satisfactory; but the position of working expenses must regulate the rate of distribution.

The produce markets have been kept in a heavy state, by the discovery of the late mercantile frauds, and the general curtailment of trade. At the wool sales, quotations have ruled 1d. to $1\frac{1}{2}$ d. per lb. higher. Indigo has been better supported than could have been anticipated under existing circumstances; in sugar and coffee, the operations have proved unimportant; and rice and salt-petre have both suffered a further considerable decline.

ENGLISH FUNDS.

	Price on June 28.	Highest.	Lowest.	Price on July 28.
Consols	$94\frac{1}{2}$	$94\frac{1}{2}$	$90\frac{1}{2}$	$92\frac{1}{2}$
Exchequer bills' average ..	2s. dis. 2s. pm.	5s. pm.	1s. dis. par to 3 pm.	

FOREIGN STOCKS.

Brazilian	100	100	$99\frac{1}{2}$	$99\frac{1}{2}$
Buenos Ayres	—	$56\frac{3}{4}$	$55\frac{1}{2}$	$55\frac{1}{2}$
Chilian	—	103	$102\frac{1}{2}$	$102\frac{1}{2}$
Dutch	$61\frac{3}{4}$	$61\frac{3}{4}$	$58\frac{1}{2}$ ex div.	—
Mexican	$24\frac{1}{4}$	25	24	$24\frac{1}{2}$
Peruvian, $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. ..	—	69	67	$67\frac{1}{2}$
Portuguese, 4 per cent. ..	—	$40\frac{3}{4}$ ex div.	39	$39\frac{1}{2}$
Russian	$98\frac{1}{2}$	$100\frac{1}{2}$	$96\frac{1}{2}$	$97\frac{1}{2}$
Spanish	41	41	36 ex div.	$37\frac{1}{2}$

RAILWAY SHARES.

Brighton	$105\frac{1}{2}$	$110\frac{1}{2}$ ex new	$104\frac{1}{2}$	110
Caledonian	$64\frac{1}{2}$	$65\frac{1}{2}$	$61\frac{1}{2}$	$62\frac{1}{2}$
Eastern Counties	$13\frac{3}{8}$	$13\frac{3}{8}$	$12\frac{7}{8}$	$13\frac{1}{2}$
Great Northern	92	$92\frac{1}{2}$	$88\frac{1}{2}$	90

	Price on June 28.	Highest.	Lowest.	Price on July 28.
Great Western	80 $\frac{1}{4}$	80 $\frac{3}{4}$	77 $\frac{3}{4}$	79 $\frac{1}{4}$
London and North Western	107 $\frac{1}{4}$	108	102 $\frac{1}{4}$	105
Midland	67 $\frac{3}{4}$	68 $\frac{3}{4}$	64 $\frac{3}{4}$	66 $\frac{1}{2}$
Lancashire and Yorkshire ..	67 $\frac{1}{2}$	68 $\frac{1}{4}$	64 $\frac{1}{4}$	67
North Staffordshire ..	13 $\frac{3}{4}$	14	13 $\frac{1}{4}$	13 $\frac{1}{2}$
South Eastern	65 $\frac{3}{4}$	66 $\frac{1}{2}$	6 $\frac{1}{2}$	64
South Western	85 $\frac{3}{4}$	85 $\frac{3}{4}$	81 $\frac{3}{4}$	83
York, Newcastle and Berwick	74 $\frac{1}{4}$	75 $\frac{1}{2}$	72 $\frac{1}{2}$	74
York and North Midland ..	56	57 $\frac{1}{2}$	53 $\frac{1}{4}$	55 $\frac{1}{2}$
Northern of France ..	34 $\frac{7}{8}$	35	32 $\frac{3}{4}$ ex div.	32 $\frac{3}{4}$
East Indian	22	22 $\frac{3}{4}$	21 $\frac{1}{2}$	21 $\frac{3}{4}$

STATE OF TRADE.

THE state of trade in the manufacturing districts is gradually becoming worse. Complaints are made in every direction of the decrease of orders, the doubtful position of credit, and the losses incurred on recent transactions. The worsted manufacturers at Bradford have especially suffered, and a long list of failures is reported thence. At Leeds, also, suspensions have occurred.

STATE OF THE GRAIN TRADE.

THE *Gazette* returns for England and Wales have been—

Week ended 1854.	Wheat. Qrs. sold.	Weekly Average. s. d.	Six Weeks' Average. s. d.	Duty. s. d.	Corresponding Six Weeks Last Year. s. d.
June 24.....	54,730 ..	77 11 ..	78 8 ..	1 0 ..	44 6
July 1.....	57,945 ..	77 8 ..	78 7 ..	1 0 ..	45 0
„ 8.....	46,473 ..	76 6 ..	78 2 ..	1 0 ..	45 8
„ 15.....	41,808 ..	74 6 ..	77 3 ..	1 0 ..	46 9
„ 22	45,948 ..	71 10 ..	76 1 ..	1 0 ..	48 1

The importations since the harvest of 1853 have been :—

	Wheat. Qrs.	Other Grain. Qrs.	Total. Qrs.
Forty-seven weeks ended 14th June	5,283,686	3,371,430	8,655,116
Five weeks ended 19th July	355,639	323,325	678,964
	5,639,325	3,694,755	9,334,080

And the *weekly averages* have been—

	Wheat. Qrs.	Other Grain. Qrs.	Total. Qrs.
Forty-seven weeks ended 14th June	112,000	72,000	184,000
Five weeks ended 19th July	71,000	64,000	135,000
	Less 41,000	8,000	49,000

Although the weather in the early part of July was not satisfactory for the harvest, the supplies of grain having gradually increased, there was weakness and a slight decline. Immediately the fine, bright and hot weather set in, a rapid fall occurred; and the trade has since been in a state of complete panic, through the effect produced upon holders. Taking the range of prices, the decline may be fairly estimated at 12s. to 15s. per quarter; and it is stated that it is not likely to be checked at present. The general accounts from the agricultural districts are encouraging.

EAST INDIA REMITTANCES.

AMOUNT OF BILLS DRAWN FOR.

From the 24th June to the 9th of July	Bengal	£25,514	17	10
	Madras	15,080	5	4
	Bombay ..	1,150	0	0
From the 8th to the 24th of July.....	Bengal	24,158	16	10
	Madras	15,153	5	4
	Bombay ..	303	0	0
		£71,260	5	4

MONTHLY CHRONOLOGY.

- June 26.—The failure of Messrs. Cole Brothers announced.
 30.—Boomsund bombarded by the English fleet.
 July 3.—Insurrection broke out in Spain.
 5.—Suspension of Messrs. H. W. Lord and Co., East India brokers.
 6.—Suspension of Mr. Spiridone Gopcevic, of Trieste, announced.
 11.—Withdrawal of the combined fleets from before Cronstadt.
 12.—Defeat of the Russians by the Turks, at Guirgevo.—Stoppage of Mr. Mark Gopcevic, of London, announced.
 13.—Isle of Ramadon captured by the Turks.
 16.—Mr. Spiridone Gopcevic resumes payments.
 17.—Russians defeated at Frateschti, with loss of 700 men.—The failures of Messrs. Passavant and Co., Messrs. Simeon Townend, Messrs. Beckenbach and Co., Messrs. W. Beavus, Messrs. R. M'Lauren and Co., and Messrs. Samuel Wilkinson, of Bradford, announced.
 19.—Intelligence received of Mr. R. Schuyler, of New York, having over-issued New York and New Haven railway stock to the amount of 2,000,000 dols.
 20.—Mr. J. W. Cole, of the firm of Cole Brothers, arrested on a charge of obtaining, by means of fraudulent orders, from Messrs. Lang and Campbell, the sum of £10,000.—Russians defeated at Ardaghan.
 24.—Failures of Messrs. de Launy, Iselin and Clarke, and Messrs. Schell, Burrows and Son, of New York, announced.—Debates in both Houses of Parliament on the additional war grant of £3,000,000.

NOTICES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

- A heavy pressure of interesting matter has compelled us at the last moment to omit, among other Bank reports, those of the Colonial, the Carlisle and City, the Chartered Bank of Asia, and the Union Bank of Australia. All letters, except they involve important questions, should be sent by the 20th of the month.
- AN ALLOTTEE.—The Lords Justices gave judgment in the case of the Chartered Bank of India, Australia, and China, on the 27th instant (July), to the effect that an injunction shall be granted, until further order, to restrain the directors from the attempted forfeiture of shares, and to prevent a compulsory execution of the deed. The cause, on its intrinsic merits, remains to be heard. We hope in our next to find room for a summary of the judgment.
- A. B. C. (Carnarvon).—The securities alluded to have been frequently advertised of late for sale at very attractive prices, if the interest be punctually discharged. The attempt to hawk them through the country in the manner stated, would savour of something doubtful in the expected arrangement. It is asserted that the contractors and others have taken them largely in part payment of work, and are realising them for their own convenience.
- A MERCHANT.—Mr. J. W. Cole has been further remanded on the charge brought against him at the Mansion-House, and bail has been refused.

JOINT-STOCK BANKS. RAILWAY SHARES.

FOREIGN STOCKS (27th July.)

FOREIGN STOCKS (27th July.)	
Brazilian Bonds, 5 per Cent.	99½
Chilian Bonds, 6 per Cent.	102
Danish 3 per Cent.	99
Mexican 3 per Cent.	24
Portuguese 4½ per Cent.	67
Portuguese Bonds, 4 per Cent.	39½
Russian Bonds, 1892, 5 per Cent. in 2 Sters.	97½
Ditto, 4½ per Cent.	91½
Spanish Bonds 3 per Cent.	37
Ditto, 3 per Cent. Deferred	51
(Dividends on the above payable in London.)	18½
Austrian 3 per Cent.	—
Belgian Bonds, 4½ per Cent.	—
Ditto 2½ per Cent.	59½
Ditto 4 per Cent. Loan	91½
French 4½ per Cent., at Paris, July 26	98½
Ditto 3 per Cent., ditto	96.50c.

1

The closing prices of the day are quoted,

Bank of England Weekly Returns.

Account, pursuant to the Act 7th and 8th of Victoria, cap. 32, for the Weeks ending as follows.

ISSUE DEPARTMENT.

	1854. June 17th.	1854. June 24th.	1854. July 1st.	1854. July 8th.	1854. July 15th.
Notes issued.....	£ 26,373,255	£ 27,132,635	£ 27,483,985	£ 27,298,660	£ 27,065,945
Government debt.....	11,015,100	11,015,100	11,015,100	11,015,100	11,015,100
Other securities.....	2,984,900	2,984,900	2,984,900	2,984,900	2,984,900
Gold coin and bullion.....	12,373,255	13,132,635	13,483,985	13,298,660	13,065,945
Silver bullion.....	—	—	—	—	—
	26,373,255	27,132,635	27,483,985	27,298,660	27,065,945

BANKING DEPARTMENT.

	1854. June 17th.	1854. June 24th.	1854. July 1st.	1854. July 8th.	1854. July 15th.
Proprietors' capital.....	£ 14,553,000	£ 14,553,000	£ 14,553,000	£ 14,553,000	£ 14,553,000
Rest.....	3,194,253	3,202,523	3,229,791	3,265,820	3,309,129
Public deposits (including Ex- chequer, Savings' Banks, Com- missioners of National Debt, and Dividend Accounts).....	3,212,382	4,852,805	5,315,105	4,948,822	3,207,955
Other deposits.....	10,513,491	10,114,383	11,119,344	12,571,329	11,655,073
Seven day and other bills.....	1,030,412	968,286	952,681	1,958,431	1,120,013
	32,503,538	33,690,997	35,200,014	36,397,402	33,846,079
Government securities (including Dead Weight Annuity).....	9,720,499	9,851,256	10,332,793	12,977,937	12,470,237
Other securities.....	15,374,237	15,584,007	16,750,401	15,930,198	14,234,926
Notes.....	6,672,680	7,518,400	7,385,205	6,777,420	6,409,990
Gold and silver coin.....	736,123	737,340	731,613	722,547	737,927
	32,503,538	33,690,997	35,200,014	36,397,402	33,846,079

The Exchanges.

	June 16th.	June 23rd.	June 30th.	July 7th.	July 14th.
Amsterdam, short ..	11 15	11 15½	11 15½	11 15½	11 15½
Ditto 3 months..	11 17½	11 17½	11 17½	11 17½	11 17½
Rotterdam, ditto ..	11 17½	11 17½	11 17½	11 17½	11 17½
Antwerp, ditto ..	25 22½	25 25	25 25	25 27½	25 25
Brussels, ditto	25 22½	25 25	25 25	25 27½	25 25
Hamburg, ditto.....	13 5½	13 5½	13 6	13 6	13 5½
Paris, short	25 0	25 2½	25 2½	25 5	24 97½
Paris, 3 months	25 30	25 27½	25 30	25 30	25 27½
Marseilles, ditto	25 30	25 30	25 32½	25 30	25 27½
Frankfort, ditto	118½	118½	118½	118½	118½
Vienna, ditto.....	13 15	13 15	13 0	12 58	13 5
Trieste, ditto.....	13 20	13 17	13 5	13 0	13 10
Petersburgh, ditto ..	36½	..	36½	36½	36½
Madrid, ditto	49½	49½	49½	49½	49½
Cadiz, ditto	50	50	50	50	50
Leghorn, ditto	30 45	30 45	30 52½	30 50	30 47½
Genoa, ditto	25 40	25 40	25 40	25 37½	25 40
Naples, ditto.....	42½	42½	42½	42½	43
Palermo, ditto	127½	127	127	126½	127½
Messina, ditto	127½	127½	127½	127	127½
Lisbon, 60 days' date	52½	52½	52½	53	53½
Oporto, ditto	53½	53½	53½	53½	53½
Rio Janeiro, ditto ..	—	—	—	—	—

PRICES OF BULLION.

	Per Ounce.	Per Ounce.	Per Ounce.	Per Ounce.	Per Ounce.
Foreign Gold in Bars. (Standard).....	£ 3 17 9	£ 3 17 9	£ 3 17 9	£ 3 17 9	£ 3 17 9
Mexican Dollars	0 5 2½	0 0 0	0 5 3	0 0 0	0 5 1½
Silver in Bars (Stand.)	0 5 1½	0 5 1½	0 5 1½	0 0 0	0 5 1½

Bankers' Weekly Circulation Returns.

Pursuant to the Act 7 & 8 Victoria, c. 32; extracted from the LONDON GAZETTES.

PRIVATE BANKS.

NAME OF BANK.	Authorised Issue.	AVERAGE AMOUNT.			
		June 17.	June 24.	July 1.	July 8.
	£	£	£	£	£
1 Andover Bank	17,751	11,145	11,808	12,285	10,767
2 Ashford Bank	11,849	10,811	10,890	10,291	11,125
3 Aylsham Bank	5,854	4,818	4,526	4,593	4,498
4 Aylesbury Old Bank	48,461	25,204	25,508	24,557	24,719
5 Baldock and Biggleswade Bank ...	37,223	25,818	24,804	24,556	24,627
6 Barnstable Bank	17,182	10,900	10,161	9,699	9,698
7 Basingstoke and Odiham Bank ...	24,730	17,685	16,646	16,456	16,316
8 Bedford Bank	34,218	29,344	30,973	31,455	31,921
9 Bewdley Bank	18,597	11,709	11,017	11,391	11,817
10 Bicester and Oxfordshire Bank ...	27,090	14,433	13,546	13,516	12,737
11 Birmingham Bank—Attwoods & Co. ...	23,695	21,785	21,659	23,464	22,802
12 Birmingham and Warwickshire Bk.	18,132	10,046	10,134	10,489	10,248
13 Blandford Bank	9,723	7,433	7,028	6,710	6,936
14 Boston Bank—Garfit and Co.	75,069	65,080	68,520	67,874	67,238
15 Boston Bank—Gee and Co.	15,161	14,201	14,482	13,693	12,667
16 Bridgewater Bank	10,028	5,284	5,388	5,163	4,971
17 Bristol Bank	48,277	38,559	38,069	40,779	42,168
18 Brosley and Bridgenorth Bank ...	26,717	16,711	16,824	16,449	16,639
19 Brckingham Bank	29,557	20,070	19,090	18,727	19,734
20 Bury and Suffolk Bank	82,362	62,135	63,128	62,747	63,944
21 Banbury Bank	43,457	30,194	31,907	30,116	30,687
22 Banbury Old Bank	55,153	25,453	25,620	24,053	23,330
23 Bath City Bank	4,572	2,810	2,692	2,862	2,941
24 Bedfordshire Leighton Buzzard Bk.	36,829	32,466	32,194	31,350	31,578
25 Birmingham Bk.—Taylor & Lloyds	38,816	31,929	34,187	35,420	34,540
26 Bradford Old Bank	12,676	11,608	11,494	11,175	11,246
27 Brecon Old Bank	68,271	69,458	67,589	66,102	66,419
28 Brighton Union Bank	33,794	23,546	22,789	24,539	25,111
29 Burlington and Driffield Bank	12,745	11,823	11,462	11,772	12,534
30 Bury St. Edmund's Bank	3,201	2,525	2,434	2,215	2,195
31 Cambridge Bk.—Mortlock & Co.	25,744	14,659	13,925	13,668	14,323
32 Cambridge and Cambridgeshire Bk.	49,916	42,731	41,632	41,822	39,990
33 Canterbury Bank	33,671	30,730	30,420	30,741	31,488
34 Carmarthen Bank	23,597	23,014	23,107	23,443	22,971
35 Chertsey Bank	3,436	2,843	3,194	2,866	2,894
36 Colchester Bank	25,082	15,556	15,920	16,667	17,493
37 Colchester and Essex Bank	48,704	27,089	27,165	28,865	29,180
38 Cornish Bank—Tweedy & Co. ...	49,869	49,055	48,624	48,010	48,812
39 Coventry Bank	12,045	6,302	6,145	6,235	6,577
40 City Bank, Exeter	21,527	20,966	20,918	20,325	20,095
41 Craven Bank—Alcocks & Co. ...	77,154	70,461	69,652	68,433	69,215
42 Cardiff Bank	7,001	6,703	6,495	6,545	6,476
43 Clepshaw Old Bank	9,387	8,099	7,685	7,770	7,867
44 Derby Bank—Messrs. Evans	13,332	10,706	10,576	10,273	10,611
45 Derby Bank—Smith and Co.	41,304	37,335	36,017	34,505	32,915
46 Derby Old Bank	27,237	27,001	26,291	27,326	27,866
47 Devizes and Wiltshire Bank	20,674	9,174	8,825	8,754	9,172
48 Diss Bank	10,657	10,279	10,402	10,497	10,383
49 Doncaster Bank and Retford Bank	77,400	67,549	66,249	65,219	67,611
50 Darlington Bank ..	86,218	84,914	83,595	82,495	82,499
51 Devonport Bank	10,664	9,664	9,915	10,238	10,855
52 Dorchester Old Bank	48,807	44,987	44,800	44,458	45,130
53 East Cornwall Bk.—Robins & Co.	112,280	104,919	105,347	105,428	107,502
54 East Riding Bank—Bower & Co.	53,392	49,419	49,441	50,948	52,880
55 Essex Bk. & Bishops Stortford Bk.	69,637	42,181	41,659	42,009	43,951
56 Exeter Bank	37,894	25,248	26,051	26,280	26,902
57 Fakenham Bank	24,293	22,794	22,055	21,300	21,036

WEEKLY RETURNS OF BANKS OF ISSUE.

NAME OF BANK.	Authorised Issue.	AVERAGE AMOUNT.			
		June 17.	June 24.	July 1.	July 8.
	£	£	£	£	£
58 Faringdon Bk. & Bk. of Wantage	8,977	5,976	6,416	6,485	6,096
59 Farnham Bank	14,202	11,138	11,340	12,502	12,053
60 Faversham Bank	6,681	5,648	5,774	5,592	5,432
61 Godalming Bank	6,322	5,570	5,062	5,235	5,324
62 Guildford Bank	14,524	5,308	5,265	5,368	5,725
63 Grantham Bank—Hardy and Co.	30,372	26,263	25,324	24,558	24,550
64 Hastings Old Bank	38,038	27,294	27,264	27,704	27,895
65 Hereford City and County Bank	22,364	15,645	15,149	14,921	15,337
66 Hertford and Ware Bank	23,635	16,049	15,295	15,171	14,851
67 Hull & Kingston-upon-Hull Bank	19,979	17,583	17,472	18,040	18,645
68 Huntingdon Town & County Bank	56,591	42,200	42,005	41,104	40,661
69 Harwich Bank	5,778	5,220	4,876	5,072	5,090
70 Hemel Hempstead Bank	23,842	22,720	23,227	23,445	24,145
71 Hertfordshire, Hitchin Bank	38,764	34,293	33,627	33,757	33,764
72 Hereford, Ross, & Archenfield Bk.	27,625	20,860	20,672	19,492	20,416
73 Ipswich Bank	21,901	18,205	18,458	18,032	17,973
74 Ipswich & Needham Market Bank	80,699	56,607	55,831	55,566	55,701
75 Kentish Bank—Mercer & Co.	19,895	13,464	13,434	13,692	13,712
76 Kington and Radnorshire Bank	26,050	24,029	23,250	22,370	21,590
77 Knighton Bank	9,090	9,095	9,043	9,088	9,074
78 Knaresborough Old Bank	21,825	20,290	20,690	20,965	20,638
79 Kendal Bank	44,663	41,925	40,442	38,374	38,524
80 Kettering Bank	9,192	8,940	8,730	8,651	8,594
81 Lane End Staffordshire Bank	5,624	5,118	5,313	5,032	5,117
82 Leeds Bank	53,357	52,356	52,951	53,356	53,962
83 Leeds Union Bank	37,459	37,079	36,497	36,611	37,801
84 Leicester Bank	32,322	28,016	28,060	26,914	26,795
85 Lewes Old Bank	44,816	26,405	26,508	28,010	28,580
86 Lichfield Bank	22,786	9,421	8,884	9,740	9,575
87 Lincoln Bank	100,342	88,681	85,520	82,541	83,060
88 Llandoverly Bank & Llandilo Bank	32,945	23,619	23,035	21,579	20,349
89 Loughborough Bank	7,359	7,267	7,260	6,929	6,999
90 Lymington Bank	5,038	3,662	3,565	3,726	4,207
91 Lynn Regis and Lincolnshire Bank	42,817	33,100	33,425	33,569	34,833
92 Lynn Regis and Norfolk Bank	13,917	11,400	11,325	11,443	12,655
93 Macclesfield Bank	15,760	14,235	14,814	14,687	14,459
94 Manningtree Bank	7,692	2,380	2,074	2,110	2,405
95 Merionethshire Bank	10,906	8,072	7,240	7,145	6,923
96 Miners' Bank	18,688	14,781	14,816	14,480	15,001
97 Monmouthshire Agricultural and Commercial Bank	29,335	27,357	27,357	27,492	28,687
98 Monmouth Old Bank	16,385	14,081	15,140	14,901	14,864
99 Newark Bank	28,788	23,255	22,490	20,937	20,554
100 Newark and Sleaford Bank	51,615	47,137	47,115	45,610	46,465
101 Newbury Bank	36,787	18,356	18,993	19,133	19,070
102 Newmarket Bank	23,098	16,691	16,226	16,106	16,274
103 Norwich Crown Bank and Norfolk and Suffolk Bank	49,671	46,840	47,048	48,437	49,084
104 Norwich and Norfolk Bank	75,372	70,784	71,353	72,280	72,359
105 Nottingham, Nottinghamshire	10,866	8,824	8,855	9,453	9,058
106 Nuneaton Bank	5,898	2,840	2,986	2,570	2,686
107 Naval Bank, Plymouth	27,321	23,490	22,945	22,818	23,992
108 New Sarum Bk.—Everett & Smith	15,659	10,397	10,280	10,483	10,064
109 Nottingham Bank	31,047	28,154	27,108	27,741	27,870
110 Oswestry Bank	18,471	9,748	9,536	9,703	10,019
111 Oxford Old Bank	34,391	33,133	34,367	34,865	35,035
112 Old Bank, Tonbridge	13,183	8,006	7,941	7,840	7,867
113 Oxfordshire Witney Bank	11,852	8,650	8,813	8,464	9,127
114 Pease's Old Bank, Hull	48,807	44,433	44,484	44,854	45,534
115 Penance Bank	11,405	10,602	10,899	11,421	11,018
116 Peterborough Bank—Yorke & Co.	12,545	8,451	8,395	8,562	8,576

WEEKLY RETURNS OF BANKS OF ISSUE.

NAME OF BANK.	Authorised Issue.	AVERAGE AMOUNT.			
		June 17.	June 24.	July 1.	July 8.
	£	£	£	£	£
117 Pembrokehire Bank	12,910	10,928	10,419	10,356	10,205
118 Reading Bank—Simmonds & Co.	37,519	27,630	27,133	27,231	27,075
119 Reading Bk.—Stephens & Blandy	43,271	26,586	27,082	27,070	26,955
120 Richmond Bank, Richmond	6,889	6,958	6,843	6,749	6,827
121 Rochdale Bank	5,590	4,893	5,551	5,075	5,405
122 Rochester, Chatham, & Strood Bk.	10,480	6,759	6,655	7,150	7,309
123 Royston Bank	16,393	13,183	13,240	13,124	12,383
124 Rugby Bank	17,250	10,520	10,509	10,587	10,070
125 Rye Bank	29,864	13,009	12,007	11,848	12,095
126 Ross Old Bank, Herefordshire ...	4,420	4,186	4,126	4,002	4,246
127 Saffron Walden & North Essex Bk.	47,646	24,798	24,554	25,272	24,955
128 Salop Bank	22,338	14,523	14,741	15,207	15,159
129 Scarborough Old Bank	24,813	22,380	22,675	22,012	22,444
130 Shrewsbury Old Bank	43,191	33,523	33,133	32,807	33,292
131 Sittingbourne and Milton Bank...	4,789	2,765	2,654	2,282	2,395
132 Southampton Town & County Bk.	18,589	14,108	13,698	14,044	15,648
133 Southwell Bank	14,744	11,649	11,545	10,879	11,327
134 Southampton and Hampshire Bk.	6,770	3,215	3,142	3,511	4,010
135 Stafford Old Bank	14,166	10,973	10,373	11,124	11,255
136 Stamford and Rutland Bank	31,858	25,751	25,265	24,528	24,458
137 Shrewsbury and Welsh Pool Bank	25,336	23,448	22,558	21,804	20,455
138 Taunton Bank	29,799	24,972	25,145	24,985	25,441
139 Tavistock Bank	13,421	3,638	3,180	3,924	4,814
140 Thornbury Bank	10,026	5,512	5,654	5,237	5,186
141 Tiverton and Devonshire Bank ...	13,470	9,625	9,480	9,575	9,311
142 Thrapstone and Kettering Bank..	11,559	11,702	11,723	10,884	10,629
143 Tring Bank and Chesham Bank..	13,531	12,026	11,660	11,363	11,451
144 Towcester Old Bank	10,801	7,466	7,451	7,350	7,826
145 Town and County of Poole Bk. and Ringwood and Poole Bk.	11,856	10,308	10,107	10,064	9,975
146 Union Bank, Cornwall	17,003	11,483	10,713	11,810	13,189
147 Uxbridge Old Bank	25,136	14,225	14,249	13,620	13,062
148 Wallingford Bank	17,064	8,278	8,291	8,262	8,140
149 Warwick and Warwickshire Bank	30,504	22,847	22,864	22,640	23,022
150 Wellington Bank, Somerset	6,528	2,662	2,894	3,162	3,403
151 West Riding Bank	46,158	46,366	44,232	44,282	46,724
152 Whitby Old Bank	14,258	13,829	13,740	13,294	13,845
153 Winchester, Alresford & Alton Bk.	25,892	16,831	17,303	17,989	17,924
154 Weymouth Old Bank	16,461	16,025	15,927	16,071	16,105
155 Wirksworth and Derbyshire Bk.	37,602	35,104	36,285	35,378	34,426
156 Wisbeach and Lincolnshire Bank	59,713	46,138	44,903	43,455	43,408
157 Wiveliscombe Bank	7,602	6,807	7,144	6,739	6,810
158 Wolverhampton Bk.—Goodricke	14,180	11,918	11,455	11,574	12,770
159 Worcester Bank	15,463	6,493	6,535	7,359	6,877
160 Worcester Old Bank	87,448	61,495	61,925	61,675	62,522
161 Worcesterhire Bank	14,109	7,673	8,014	8,445	9,485
162 Wolverham. Bk.—R. & W. Fryer	11,867	11,030	12,115	11,788	10,747
163 Yarmouth and Suffolk Bank	53,060	36,520	37,382	38,416	39,337
164 Yarmouth, Norfolk, & Suffolk Bk.	13,229	11,001	11,115	11,259	11,825
165 York Bank	46,387	42,383	40,983	41,189	42,521

JOINT STOCK BANKS.

1 Bank of Westmoreland	12,225	11,431	10,918	10,465	9,906
2 Barnsley Banking Company	9,563	8,764	8,766	8,340	8,844
3 Bradford Banking Company	49,292	48,640	47,689	48,732	50,112
4 Bilton District Banking Company	9,418	8,273	8,729	8,662	10,101
5 Bank of Whitehaven	32,681	30,626	30,574	29,572	29,744
6 Bradford Commercial Banking Co.	20,084	20,113	20,303	19,320	19,767
7 Burton, Uttoxeter, and Staffordshire Union Bank	60,701	55,146	53,580	52,844	51,273

WEEKLY RETURNS OF BANKS OF ISSUE.

NAME OF BANK.	Authorised Issue.	AVERAGE AMOUNT.			
		June 17.	June 24.	July 1.	July 8.
	£	£	£	£	£
8 Chesterfield & N. Derbysh. Bk. Co.	10,421	9,690	9,675	9,144	9,697
9 Cumberland Union Banking Co....	35,395	35,005	33,495	32,178	32,051
10 Cheltenham & Glo'stershire Bk. Co.	12,786	9,440	9,648	10,083	10,068
11 Coventry and Warwickshire Bk. Co.	28,734	22,265	21,455	22,135	21,724
12 Coventry Union Banking Company	16,251	14,359	14,230	14,315	13,349
13 County of Gloucester Banking Co.	144,352	100,791	100,568	102,005	102,732
14 Carlisle & Cumberland Banking Co.	25,610	24,602	25,194	25,056	24,935
15 Carlisle City and District Bank ...	19,972	18,687	18,602	17,995	18,506
16 Dudley & West Bromwich Bk. Co.	37,696	37,741	37,167	37,739	37,582
17 Derby and Derbyshire Banking Co.	20,093	18,715	17,668	17,665	18,764
18 Darlington Dist. Joint Stock Bk. Co.	26,134	25,320	23,925	22,970	22,410
19 East of England Bank	25,015	23,525	23,891	24,190	25,115
20 Gloucestershire Banking Company	155,920	142,223	141,169	139,673	139,819
21 Halifax Joint Stock Bank	18,534	17,804	17,275	17,249	17,040
22 Huddersfield Banking Company...	37,354	36,800	37,338	34,865	34,766
23 Hull Banking Company	29,333	24,842	25,639	26,370	25,599
24 Halifax Commercial Banking Co...	13,733	13,359	12,944	12,568	13,343
25 Halifax & Huddersfield Union Bk.	44,137	42,588	40,858	39,990	42,805
26 Helston Banking Company	1,503	1,482	1,497	1,483	1,400
27 Herefordshire Banking Company..	25,047	15,698	14,886	14,037	14,363
28 Knaresborough and Claro Bk. Co.	28,059	26,115	26,482	26,893	25,690
29 Kingsbridge Joint Stock Bank	3,952	3,542	3,649	3,232	3,070
30 Lancaster Banking Company	64,311	59,713	58,058	54,364	55,653
31 Leeds Banking Company	23,076	22,335	23,820	23,539	22,306
32 Leicestershire Banking Company...	86,060	71,640	72,176	68,625	67,327
33 Lincoln and Lindsey Banking Co.	51,620	45,530	48,505	46,968	48,385
34 Leamington Priors and Warwick- shire Bank	13,875	11,111	10,585	11,477	10,910
35 Ludlow and Tenbury Bank	10,215	9,770	10,105	9,953	9,403
36 Moore & Robinson's Notts. Bank...	35,813	31,057	31,947	31,337	31,163
37 Nottingham and Notts. Banking Co.	29,477	26,515	25,450	24,225	24,918
38 National Provincial Bk. of England	442,371	399,183	393,470	392,260	395,614
39 North Wilts Banking Company ...	63,939	39,620	38,400	37,838	37,095
40 Northamptonshire Union Bank ...	84,356	67,393	66,256	65,529	67,010
41 Northamptonshire Banking Co. ...	26,401	23,637	24,121	24,021	23,957
42 North and South Wales Bank	63,951	40,394	38,628	39,141	38,934
43 Pare's Leicestershire Banking Co.	59,300	47,480	46,195	44,230	43,960
44 Saddleworth Banking Company ...	8,122	2,294	2,370	2,291	2,397
45 Sheffield Banking Company	35,843	36,060	34,164	33,923	36,459
46 Stamford, Spalding & Boston Bk. Co.	55,721	47,920	48,423	48,789	46,116
47 Stuckey's Banking Company	356,976	320,671	320,518	324,686	324,688
48 Shropshire Banking Company	47,951	45,605	47,619	46,746	48,482
49 Stourbridge and Kidderminster Bk.	56,830	56,901	55,597	56,041	54,964
50 Sheffield and Hallamshire Bank ...	23,524	23,595	22,278	21,588	23,299
51 Sheffield & Rotherham Jt. Stock Bk.	52,496	51,683	51,536	51,658	52,671
52 Swaledale and Wensleydale Bank..	54,372	50,360	50,775	50,108	48,539
53 Storey and Thomas's Bank	9,714	9,662	9,620	9,268	9,515
54 Wolverhampton & Staffordsh. Bk..	35,378	33,948	34,125	33,108	33,839
55 Wakefield and Barnsley Union Bk.	14,604	11,529	10,877	10,904	11,218
56 Whitehaven Joint Stock Bank ...	31,916	29,558	28,490	28,096	29,029
57 Warwick and Leamington Bk. Co.	37,124	29,063	28,201	27,724	28,102
58 West of England and South Wales District Bank	83,535	77,144	77,407	76,613	79,413
59 Wilts & Dorset Banking Company	76,162	68,245	69,072	68,268	67,870
60 West Riding Union Banking Co....	34,029	33,315	32,533	32,195	31,868
61 Whitchurch and Ellesmere Bk. Co.	7,475	4,012	3,760	3,790	2,893
62 Worcester City and County Bk. Co.	6,848	5,520	5,352	5,939	5,730
63 York Union Banking Company ...	71,240	66,039	67,215	66,652	66,348
64 York City and County Banking Co.	94,695	87,705	89,089	90,045	89,215
65 Yorkshire Banking Company	122,532	118,224	118,823	119,795	121,308

SUMMARY OF WEEKLY RETURNS OF BANKS OF ISSUE.

	Fixed Issues.	June 17.	June 24.	July 1.	July 8.
166 Private Banks.....	£4,607,455	£3,637,526	£3,615,350	£3,605,225	£3,638,674
65 Joint Stock Banks..	3,325,857	2,952,017	2,933,274	2,911,504	2,925,173
231 Totals	7,933,312	6,589,543	6,548,624	6,516,729	6,563,847

Average Weekly Circulation of these Banks for the month ending July 8th:—

Private Banks	£3,624,194
Joint-Stock Banks.....	2,930,492

Average Weekly Circulation of Private and Joint-Stock Banks ending as above £6,554,686

On a comparison of the above with the Returns for the month ending 10th June last, it shows:—

A decrease in the notes of Private Banks, of	£135,926
A decrease in the notes of Joint-Stock Banks, of	92,727
Total decrease on the month.....	£228,653

And as compared with the month ending 9th July, 1858, it shows—

A decrease in the notes of Private Banks, of	£93,944
A decrease in the notes of Joint-Stock Banks, of	87,359

Total decrease, as compared with the same period of last year

The following is the comparative state of the circulation, as regards the fixed issues—

The Private Banks are below their fixed issues	£983,261
The Joint-Stock Banks are below their fixed issues.....	395,365

Total BELOW the fixed issues

Irish and Scotch Circulation Returns.

Average Circulation, and Coin held by the IRISH and SCOTCH BANKS during the four weeks ending Saturday, the 8th day of July, 1854.

IRISH BANKS.

NAME OF BANK.	Authorised Circulation.	Average Circulation during Four Weeks, ending as above.			Average Amt. of Gold & Silver Coin held during Four Weeks ending as above.
		£5 and upwards.	Under £5.	Total.	
Bank of Ireland.....	3,738,428	1,880,100	1,109,050	2,989,150	847,642
Provincial Bank of Ireland	927,667	342,182	488,444	812,626	251,459
Belfast Bank	281,611	56,781	332,370	389,159	200,652
Northern Bank	243,440	33,140	204,400	237,540	87,257
Ulster Bank	311,079	50,396	340,699	391,095	116,473
National Bank of Ireland...	761,757	399,602	513,516	913,119	293,409
Carrick-on-Suir Nat. Bank	24,084	9,398	11,891	21,290	5,311
Clonmel National Bank ...	66,428	23,670	23,713	47,383	12,184
TOTALS (Irish Banks) ...	6,354,494	2,777,269	3,024,091	5,801,362	1,814,377

SCOTCH BANKS.

Bank of Scotland	300,485	129,365	262,676	392,041	164,032
Boyal Bank of Scotland ...	183,000	63,457	113,227	176,684	47,452
British Linen Company	438,024	185,880	316,243	502,123	173,935
Commercial Bk. of Scotland	374,880	160,806	322,749	483,555	181,105
National Bank of Scotland..	297,024	115,095	230,380	345,475	90,344
Union Bank of Scotland and Banking Com. in Aberdeen	415,690	178,424	345,807	524,231	172,620
Edinburgh & Glasgow Bk...	136,657	56,031	89,821	145,852	39,927
Aberdeen Town and Co. Bk.	70,133	41,380	71,412	112,792	47,685
North of Scotland Bk. Co...	154,319	95,545	109,171	204,716	85,730
Dundee Banking Company	33,451	16,587	23,133	39,721	8,304
Eastern Bank of Scotland...	33,636	17,517	23,895	41,412	12,505
Western Bank of Scotland..	337,938	151,395	379,539	530,934	286,302
Clydesdale Banking Co. ...	104,028	49,633	103,953	153,587	73,034
City of Glasgow Bank	72,921	82,728	39,806	182,535	131,089
Caledonian Banking Co. ...	53,434	26,780	50,501	77,281	35,543
Perth Banking Company ...	38,656	17,107	33,371	50,479	21,154
Central Bank of Scotland...	42,933	20,555	36,588	57,143	20,629
TOTALS (Scotch Banks)...	3,087,209	1,408,582	2,612,272	4,029,561	1,591,390

CIRCULATION RETURNS.

SUMMARY OF IRISH & SCOTCH RETURNS TO JULY 8, 1854.

The Returns of Circulation of the Irish and Scotch Banks for the four weeks ending 8th July, when added together, give the following as the average weekly circulation of these banks during the past month, viz. :—

Average Circulation of the Irish Banks .. £5,801,362
Average Circulation of the Scotch Banks .. £929,561

Total Average Circulation of these Banks for the past month £6,730,923

On comparing these amounts with the Returns for the month ending 10th June last, they show—

Decrease in the Circulation of Irish Banks £379,926
Decrease in the Circulation of Scotch Banks 298,537

Total decrease on the month £678,463

And as compared with the month ending July 9th, 1853, they show—

Increase in the Circulation of Irish Banks £627,734
Increase in the Circulation of Scotch Banks 258,921

Total increase on the year 886,655

The fixed issues of the Irish and Scotch Banks at the present time are given in the *Banking Almanac*, as follows :—

8 Banks in Ireland, allowed to issue... £6,354,494
18 Banks in Scotland, allowed to issue .. 3,067,289

26 Banks in all, allowed to issue..... £9,421,783

The following appears, therefore, to be the comparative state of the circulation :—

Irish Banks are below their fixed issue .. £353,132
Scotch Banks are above their fixed issue 933,352

Total above the fixed issue £580,220

The amounts of Gold and Silver held at the head offices of the several banks, during the past month, have been as follows :—

Gold and Silver held by the Irish Banks £1,814,377
Gold and Silver held by the Scotch Banks 1,591,590

Total of Gold and Silver Coin £3,405,967

Being a decrease of £113,375 on the part of the Irish Banks, and a decrease of £43,659 on the part of the Scotch Banks, on the several amounts held by them during the preceding month.

CIRCULATION OF THE UNITED KINGDOM TO JULY 8, 1854.

The following is the state of the Note Circulation of the United Kingdom, for the month ending the 8th July, 1854.

Circulation of Notes for the Month ending July 8th, as compared with the previous month :

	June 10.	July 8.	Increase.	Decrease.
Bank of England	£20,498,260	£19,984,707	—	£513,553
Private Banks	2,760,120	3,624,194	—	138,976
Joint Stock Banks	3,023,219	2,930,492	—	92,727
Total in England	27,281,599	26,538,393	—	743,206
Scotland	4,319,998	4,070,561	—	298,537
Ireland	6,180,288	5,801,362	—	378,926
United Kingdom.....	37,780,985	36,366,316	—	1,420,669

The comparison of the month ending July 9th, 1853, with the month ending July 8th, 1854, shows a decrease in the Bank of England circulation of £3,011,828, a decrease in Private Banks of £93,944, and a decrease in Joint Stock Banks of £87,359; being a total decrease in England of £3,193,131: while in Scotland there is an increase of £258,921; and in Ireland an increase of £627,734. Thus showing that the month ending 8th July, as compared with the same period last year, presents a decrease of £3,193,131 in England, and a decrease of £2,306,476 in the United Kingdom.

The return of Bullion in the Bank of England, for the month ending July 8th, gives an aggregate amount in both departments of £13,804,039. On a comparison of this with the Return for the month ending June 10th, there appears to be an increase of £1,120,784; and a decrease of £4,725,634 as compared with the same period last year.

The stock of specie held by the Banks in Scotland and Ireland during the month ending 8th July, was £3,405,967; being a decrease of £156,425 as compared with the return of the previous month, and an increase of £663,186 as compared with the corresponding period last year.

THE BANKERS' MAGAZINE,

AND

Journal of the Money Market.

SEPTEMBER, 1854.

THE BANK UNDER SIR R. PEEL'S ACT.

A PERIOD of ten years having elapsed since the regulations of the present charter of the Bank of England came into operation, it may be presumed that sufficient data have been collected on which to found an opinion of the practical working of the measure, and of the influence which their restricted issues have exercised on the supply of accommodation to the public. The system of weekly returns, enforced for the first time on the Bank of England by Sir R. Peel's act, presents great facilities for these inquiries. On the publication of the reports of the Bank committees, in 1840 and 1841, the actual weekly changes in the currency since 1832 became generally known; and it is only necessary to make a comparison between them and the old quarterly returns, as published between 1833 and 1844, to obtain a clear idea of the fallacious nature of long averages, and the great advantages of the present system to all those who are interested in following the progress of the operations of the Bank. In fact, without the knowledge imparted by the weekly returns, the report of another Bank committee would be requisite before an opportunity for comparison could be obtained.

The great and leading feature of Sir R. Peel's Bank measure, was the limitation of the amount of notes based on securities to the sum of fourteen millions, of which about eleven millions is the debt due from the Government to the Bank, and the remainder other approved Government securities. The motive for fixing this particular sum appears undoubtedly to have been that it was the largest amount which the Bank had circulated beyond their stock of bullion for many years past, and which

had been reached on only two memorable occasions, between the years 1832 and 1844. The advances by the Bank on securities having gradually increased from $23\frac{1}{2}$ millions in 1833 to 31 millions in 1837, their notes in circulation at the latter period exceeded the stock of bullion by about 14 millions. And again, towards the end of 1839, the advances on securities having increased from $20\frac{1}{2}$ millions in December, 1838, to nearly 26 millions, their circulation of notes stood at $17\frac{1}{2}$ millions, against only $2\frac{1}{2}$ millions of specie. Had the returns published at these periods been made out in the present form, they would in each case have shown that there existed no reserve of notes in the Bank.

The division of the accounts into issue and banking departments, which was introduced by the act of 1844, is, therefore, more a form than a reality; since both in 1837 and 1839 the Bank had arrived at their established limit of issues, although the returns did not point it out in the same manner as at present. The new returns, however, offer great facilities for comparison, and afford the means (which were unattainable under the old system) of ascertaining the actual highest and lowest points in given periods. A table of these is annexed, containing the principal items in the Bank accounts, from the inspection of which a much clearer view can be obtained of the working of the system than by any mere list of averages.

The difference between the highest and lowest amounts of notes in actual circulation during each year since 1844 has been about $2\frac{1}{2}$ millions; the exceptions being in 1847 and 1853, when this difference was upwards of 3 millions, and in 1852, when it was $4\frac{1}{2}$ millions. The largest amount of notes in circulation since 1844 was on the 16th July, 1853, when it was nearly 24 millions; and the lowest was on the 16th December, 1848, when the amount was rather under 16 millions.

The alterations in the stock of bullion, on a comparison of the highest and lowest returns, were generally about 3 millions each year; the only exception down to 1851 being the year 1847, when the difference was $6\frac{1}{2}$ millions. From 1851 to the present time, the influx of gold has caused more considerable fluctuations; the greatest difference being in 1853, when it amounted to $5\frac{1}{2}$ millions. The greatest amount of bullion held by the Bank was on the 10th July, 1852, when the total in both departments reached £22,232,138; and the lowest, during the whole period, since 1844, was on the 23rd October, 1847, when the Bank had £8,312,691.

It may be here be remarked that, on two occasions in 1852, the total amount of bullion held by the Bank of England exceeded the notes in actual circulation, the sums being:—

	26th June.	25th Sept.
Total bullion.....	£22,042,683	£21,811,596
Notes in circulation....	21,342,555	21,512,605
Difference	700,128	298,991

It is, however, to the reserve of notes in the banking department that the attention must be directed, when it is desired to ascertain the efficiency of the present Bank arrangements as regards their power of granting accommodation to the public. The average annual difference between the highest and the lowest amounts may be considered as about $4\frac{1}{2}$ millions; but the actual extremes, during the whole period between 1844 and 1854, have ranged from scarcely above a million in 1847, to upwards of 14 millions in 1852, and again to below 4 millions in May, 1854. The average minimum, for the whole period, was about 6 millions; and the question of the soundness of the Bank regulations, so far as regards the established limit of their circulation, is therefore reduced to the consideration of the position of their affairs in October, 1847, and in May, 1854.

The following is the return of the principal items in the Bank account on the 30th October, 1847, when the reserve of notes had become reduced to £1,176,740 :—

Public deposits..	£4,696,032	Government securities..	£10,613,607
Other „	8,911,442	Private „	20,409,897
Notes in circulation.....	£20,832,750		
Total amount of bullion	8,438,874		

The origin of the great demand for money in 1847, has been so clearly traced to overtrading and speculation, followed by a deficiency in the harvest which required a large exportation of gold, that it is unnecessary here to more than barely allude to the fact; but the manner in which the Bank had increased their advances in 1846 to upwards of 36 millions (of which 23 millions were on private securities), and their reluctance to raise the rate of discount, must have had great influence in fostering unfounded confidence, and thereby tended to increased extension of speculation, and produced a greater pressure at the end.

One of the principal causes of the worst period of the panic was, undoubtedly, the numerous and extensive commercial failures, which were, at the moment, solely ascribed to the state of the money market, and produced universal distrust. The subsequent investigations into the affairs of these houses have however proved, that although the withdrawal of the usual facilities of discount had, undoubtedly, caused their stoppage, yet, that in many cases, it could not have occasioned their insolvency, which frequently dated from many years back; but

the consequences of this distrust acted in a most unfavourable manner on the reserve of the Bank. The notes in the hands of the public were nearly 21 millions; and it has been estimated, by a very high authority in commercial matters, that at least 4 to 5 millions were held in reserve and without employ, under the apprehension of still worse disasters.

Every consideration, in short, appears to point to the conclusion that the run upon the Bank for accommodation in 1847 was occasioned fully as much by fear as by the real exigencies of the moment; in proof of which, one fact alone is sufficient: immediately after the receipt of the letter from the Government (dated 25th October, 1847), authorising the extension of the currency beyond the limits fixed by the act, the demand for advances suddenly ceased; the reserves held by individuals were brought forward; the Bank rate for discount sunk to 4 per cent. before the end of January, 1848, and the unemployed notes increased to nearly 8 millions.

One very distinctive character between the nature of the panic in 1839 and the one in 1847 is, that the latter was not so peculiarly a run upon the Bank for specie. The demands of the foreign trade had certainly reduced the stock of bullion in 1847 to below 9 millions, but in 1839 the amount of specie fell to 2½ millions, indicating that at that period, in addition to the demands of the commercial community for extension of accommodation, the holders of notes were apprehensive of the want of coin to redeem them.

This difference in the feelings of the public was mainly due to the terms of the new Bank Charter: for, in the first place, the holders of notes were secured by the limitation of the issues from any eventual loss falling on them; and, secondly, the mode of making the weekly returns indicated clearly at all times the true position of the Bank; whereas the old system of quarterly averages, while it alarmed, by repeated and continued declines in the stock of bullion, yet always left a suspicion in the minds of those who did not closely follow the subject, that the actual position at any given time must be bad, indeed, to produce so low a quarterly average as the one at the time under inspection.

The next occasion requiring remark, is the situation of the Bank on the 6th May of this year, when their reserve of notes had declined to the very moderate amount of £3,900,430. Their position in other respects was as follows:—

Public deposits, £2,338,822	Government securities, £12,566,607
Other 10,688,531	Private 14,749,460
Notes in circulation	£21,974,300
Total amount of bullion	12,608,079

Until within the last two years, a stock of bullion in the Bank of 15 millions was considered a very fair average, and 17 millions amply sufficient for all purposes; but supplies began to pour in from the newly discovered sources of production, until, in the middle of 1852, the amount had increased to upwards of 22 millions. The stock of unemployed notes had also accumulated to 14 millions, and many persons began seriously to apprehend that this country was on the point of becoming overdone with circulation. The Bank of England, who appeared to be as much alarmed at the sudden influx, as they had formerly been at the withdrawal of gold, resolved to place an additional impediment in the way of gold flowing to them, by issuing in February, 1852, a notice to the public that they should no longer purchase gold at 77*s.* 9*d.* per ounce standard, as enjoined in their charter, unless the bullion offered for sale was equal to, or better than, standard gold of twenty-two carats fine. Without hazarding an opinion on the legality of this proceeding, viewed according to the strict letter of the act (and which question has never yet been brought before any tribunal competent to give a decision), it may be safely asserted, that it is contrary to the spirit of the clause, which was intended to facilitate as much as possible the deposit of gold by individuals, and thereby the creation of a paper currency actually represented by an equivalent amount of the precious metals.

This precaution of the Bank of England was, however, entirely unnecessary. The large demands of the foreign trade soon reduced their stock of bullion, which at the end of 1853 had fallen to 16 millions; and, the progress of the commerce with Australia and other distant places requiring unusually long extension of accommodation, the advances at the beginning of 1854 were nearly 32 millions (of which 17 millions were on private securities), and their reserve of notes sunk to about 7 millions. The Bank rate of discount was suffered too long to remain at 2 per cent., to which they had reduced it in April, 1852, during their plethora of riches; so that, as the result of all, their reserve of notes became reduced in May last to below 4 millions, and their stock of bullion to 12½ millions. To counteract these untoward circumstances, the rate of discount, which had gradually but tardily been advanced to 5 per cent. during 1853, was suddenly increased to 5½ per cent. This gave sufficient notice of their intentions, and in about two months from that time the reserve of notes had accumulated again to above 7½ millions, the stock of bullion to 14 millions; and the Bank, for the second time since 1844, was relieved from its difficulties.

Although this last dilemma of the Bank cannot be compared to the former one in 1847, either in its danger to themselves or

its disastrous effects on the mercantile interest, yet the comparison of the two tends to throw some light on the question of the efficiency of the regulations which govern the amount of the Bank issues. The crisis of 1847 afforded no grounds for doubting the sufficiency of the paper currency for all the legitimate purposes of the trade of the country at that time, since it could be clearly traced, partly to the absence of timely checks to over-speculation, and partly to unfounded apprehensions on the part of the public.

On viewing the decline of notes in last May, other considerations present themselves; for, although it may be safely stated that the proper steps were not taken by the Bank at a sufficiently early period to prevent the drain of their resources, yet it might be argued, with some degree of plausibility, that an amount of issue which was amply sufficient some years back, may now be inadequate for the increased and increasing wants of trade. That portion of the gold from Australia and America which we are likely to retain permanently, does not appear to be of a very formidable amount; and, instead of holding the total of the influx which some unwisely hoped, and others groundlessly feared, this country seems likely to become a sort of bonded warehouse for gold, at which other nations may supply themselves when required, but at very uncertain periods; and this will be apt to cause occasional derangements in the currency.

The altered state of the public deposits has also some slight bearing on the position of the Bank this year. The average amount of the Government deposits has diminished within the last two years, and the minimum has at times during that period fallen lower than on any previous occasions. In April last they were only $1\frac{1}{2}$ million; and it may with some show of fairness be urged, that as the former usual average amount must have been taken into consideration in fixing the limit of their available issues, the altered circumstances of the case require a corresponding variation in the limit assigned to their issues.

On the other hand, it must be considered that the present position of the circulation of country bankers in England offers no confirmation to any supposed deficiency in the currency. The original limit fixed to the total country circulation was about £8,650,000, which has been reduced by about £700,000 for the quota of those banks which, from failure or other causes, have ceased to issue notes. The present limit of issue would, therefore, be about £7,900,000; but, by the returns to July, 1854, the actual circulation of the country bankers appears to be nearly £1,380,000 below this authorised amount; and, although there may be particular cases where banks could maintain a larger amount of circulation than the sums legalised

by the act, yet it cannot be said that, taken collectively, the country banks suffer by restriction, when they cannot reach their legal amount by upwards of one million and a quarter sterling.

On a consideration of the whole subject, it may therefore be assumed that, although nothing has yet occurred in the operations of the Bank of England which proves an actual deficiency in the amount of the currency, nor any difficulty arisen which cannot be explained by the operation of other causes, yet that there are indications of an increased demand for accommodation in the commercial community which, if the trade of the country continues to enlarge, may require an extension of the Bank issues before many years have elapsed.

TABLES of the highest and lowest amounts in the principal items of the Bank accounts.

NOTES IN CIRCULATION.

<i>Highest.</i>		<i>Lowest.</i>
1845, 25th Oct., 22,026,115	.....	22nd Mar., 19,540,350
1846, 31st Jan., 21,474,495	.....	21st Mar., 19,230,810
1847, 9th Jan., 20,836,845	.....	18th Dec., 17,758,255
1848, 15th July, 19,145,060	.....	16th Dec., 16,735,715
1849, 21st July, 19,723,335	.....	6th Jan., 17,249,690
1850, 27th July, 20,760,775	.....	5th Jan., 18,256,500
1851, 25th Oct., 20,698,235	.....	22nd Mar., 18,494,320
1852, 30th Oct., 23,813,055	.....	3rd Jan., 19,284,590
1853, 16th July, 23,888,060	.....	17th Dec., 20,605,625
1854, 4th Feb., 22,557,115	.....	24th June, 19,614,235

RESERVE OF NOTES.

<i>Highest.</i>		<i>Lowest.</i>
1845, 14th June, 9,854,615	.....	1st Nov., 5,219,775
1846, 12th Sept., 9,846,600	.....	31st Jan., 5,112,860
1847, 2nd Jan., 8,227,085	.....	30th Oct., 1,176,740
1848, 23rd Dec., 11,309,335	.....	15th Jan., 7,152,400
1849, 22nd Dec., 12,481,220	.....	21st July, 8,111,140
1850, 5th Jan., 12,010,975	.....	19th Oct., 9,304,195
1851, 20th Dec., 12,142,055	.....	19th July, 6,649,515
1852, 26th June, 14,244,620	.....	17th Jan., 10,112,840
1853, 19th Mar., 11,132,095	.....	15th Oct., 5,012,490
1854, 18th Feb., 7,858,420	.....	6th May, 3,900,430

STOCK OF BULLION (IN BOTH DEPARTMENTS.)

<i>Highest.</i>		<i>Lowest.</i>
1845, 21st Jan., 16,639,315	.....	6th Dec., 13,067,350
1846, 29th Aug., 16,366,068	.....	17th Jan., 13,139,376
1847, 2nd Jan., 14,951,572	.....	22nd Oct., 8,312,691
1848, 25th Mar., 15,316,794	.....	1st Jan., 12,404,250
1849, 22nd Dec., 17,080,642	.....	5th May, 14,277,746
1850, 23rd Mar., 17,279,943	.....	28th Dec., 14,963,681
1851, 20th Dec., 17,413,564	.....	3rd May, 13,253,557
1852, 10th July, 22,232,138	.....	10th Jan., 17,515,501
1853, 1st Jan., 20,527,662	.....	22nd Oct., 14,960,206
1854, 25th Feb., 16,286,165	.....	20th May, 12,513,969

GOVERNMENT SECURITIES.

<i>Highest.</i>		<i>Lowest.</i>
1845, 12th April, 15,147,495	.....	22nd Nov., 13,201,863
1846, 11th April, 14,437,065	.....	5th Dec., 12,807,417
1847, 10th April, 13,574,444	.....	8th May, 10,308,141
1848, 14th Oct., 13,845,012	.....	8th Jan., 10,993,353
1849, 29th Sep., 14,385,582	.....	6th Jan., 13,599,597
1850, 5th Oct., 14,443,637	.....	13th April, 14,209,962
1851, 4th Jan., 14,232,319	.....	18th Oct., 13,241,768
1852, 10th April, 14,301,095	.....	10th Jan., 13,233,763
1853, 10th Dec., 15,043,730	.....	22nd Oct., 11,319,072
1854, 7th Jan., 14,833,299	.....	17th June, 9,721,499

OTHER SECURITIES.

<i>Highest.</i>		<i>Lowest.</i>
1845, 20th Dec., 16,329,285	.....	25th Jan., 8,561,399
1846, 28th Feb., 23,242,035	.....	7th Nov., 12,153,009
1847, 9th Oct., 21,437,443	.....	6th Feb., 14,019,936
1848, 1st Jan., 16,989,221	.....	9th Dec., 10,668,558
1849, 6th Oct., 11,875,435	.....	11th Aug., 9,551,310
1850, 28th Dec., 14,459,608	.....	16th Feb., 9,657,067
1851, 1st Jan., 15,181,698	.....	20th Dec., 11,366,148
1852, 24th Dec., 14,135,952	.....	28th Aug., 10,646,723
1853, 1st Oct., 19,124,799	.....	30th July, 12,466,213
1854, 1st July, 16,750,401	.....	11th Mar., 13,054,655

TOTAL SECURITIES.

<i>Highest.</i>		<i>Lowest.</i>
1845, 20th Dec., 29,531,148	.....	1st Feb., 22,194,443
1846, 28th Feb., 36,378,475	.....	7th Nov., 24,961,128
1847, 2nd Oct., 32,921,269	.....	6th Feb., 26,333,111
1848, 1st Jan., 28,053,643	.....	17th June, 23,238,041
1849, 6th Oct., 26,261,017	.....	11th Aug., 23,834,187
1850, 28th Dec., 28,692,860	.....	13th April, 23,954,664
1851, 4th Jan., 29,414,017	.....	20th Dec., 24,610,368
1852, 24th Dec., 28,098,640	.....	15th May, 24,217,238
1853, 31st Dec., 32,620,453	.....	30th July, 25,803,546
1854, 7th Jan., 31,569,708	.....	11th Mar., 24,802,383

PROGRESS OF BANKING IN AUSTRALIA.

THE importance of Australian affairs is so generally recognised, that it is obvious there should be a periodical investigation into the banking condition of those colonies. The extension of their commercial relations with Europe has had a marked influence upon the welfare of society; and, as the discovery of gold has been the primary cause of this increase of trade, it must be admitted, that if the production of gold were now largely to cease, or if the wealth collected there were to be suddenly withdrawn, there would be a severe convulsion, which

would operate most disadvantageously both upon Australia and this country. It cannot be overlooked, either, that the effect of the discovery of gold has been greatly to improve the condition of all monetary markets—not, as some contend, by cheapening the value of the commodity, which experience has shown to be a most fallacious dogma, but in enlarging the medium of circulation, in improving currency, and in distributing the precious metals more equitably throughout the world. This benefit to other countries is at once apparent, when the total imports of gold are compared with the small proportion remaining in England; and it must ever be deemed a beautiful arrangement in the economy of this world's affairs, which so wisely divides benefits of such incalculable importance to the material prosperity of nations.

One proof of success in Australia is to be found in the profits of the banks; and the following epitome, compiled from their most recent reports, will be serviceable in forming an opinion upon their general position.

	Capital.	Reserve.	Dividend.
	£	£	Per cent.
Union Bank of Australia	820,000	200,000	32
Bank of Australasia	900,000	200,000	17½
South Australian Banking Company	280,475	34,357	14
London Chartered Bank of Australia	375,000	1,000	2
English, Scottish and Australian Bank	251,200	nil	nil
Bank of New South Wales	400,000	70,000	20
Commercial Banking Company	200,000	12,540	15
Australian Joint-Stock Bank	125,000	4,676	8
Bank of Victoria	227,715	37,105	10

In these figures, gratifying as the dividends must be to the shareholders, there is a very valuable guarantee, in the reserved funds which the banks are rapidly forming—some, indeed, being already completed. To all commercial communities such reserves tend not only to increase confidence, but to induce habits of prudence in the undertakings engaged in, and are the means of setting a good moral lesson, which banks, above all other trading institutions, must find it to their advantage to keep steadily and constantly before the public.

But the internal working and prosperity of banks is only partially, and perhaps, very erroneously determined by their remunerative results. To judge more correctly and to form a proper estimate of the trading interests by which they are

surrounded, it is necessary to examine their periodical returns; and it is a useful feature in Australian banking, that, in deference to public opinion, all the banks furnish for publication average statements of their liabilities and assets. The recent accounts supply these statements to the 31st of March last, and we give first those of New South Wales:—

LIABILITIES.

	Notes in Circulation	Bills in Circulation.	Balances due to other Banks.	Deposits.	Total.
	£	£	£	£	£
New South Wales.....	548,901	6,312	179,060	1,964,655	2,698,928
Commercial	225,362	2,257	162	933,093	1,160,874
Union of Australia	209,303	20,025	128	896,536	1,125,992
Australasia.....	160,354	16,673	...	801,307	978,334
Australia Joint-Stock	88,833	525	...	292,937	399,472
London Chartered.....	25,813	2,947	17,177	60,984	89,744
English, Scottish, and Australian ...	13,141	6	...	25,038	38,185
Totals.....	1,271,707	48,745	196,527	4,974,550	6,491,529

ASSETS.

	Coin and Bullion.	Landed Property.	Notes and Bills of other Banks.	Balances due from other Banks.	Bills discounted and other debts due to the Banks.	Total.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
New South Wales	745,690	40,100	21,544	661,982	1,564,737	3,034,053
Commercial	442,389	18,042	1,835	194,652	705,996	1,362,914
Union of Australia.....	391,429	14,772	...	225	675,112	1,081,538
Australasia	695,092	9,879	1,386	...	533,616	1,239,973
Australian Joint-Stock	153,571	11,256	668	37,184	330,527	533,206
London Chartered	45,493	18,594	...	...	132,520	196,607
English, Scottish, and Australian	45,182	3,000	93	...	136,073	184,348
Totals	2,518,846	115,643	25,526	894,043	4,078,581	7,632,654

The most important statistics, however, are from the banks in Victoria; because, in that colony, the greatest discoveries in gold have been made, and the most extensive import trade has been conducted. And when it is remembered that the population of this province cannot yet exceed 300,000, there are in the following statements, facts which no community of so small an extent can surpass:—

LIABILITIES.

	Notes in Circulation.	Bills in Circulation	Balances due to other Banks.	Deposits.	Total.
	£	£	£	£	£
Bank of Australasia.....	972,070	16,223	...	2,165,538	3,153,831
Bank of Victoria	348,530	3,050	49,494	1,001,233	1,402,307
Union Bank of Australia	323,134	26,310	347	1,838,753	2,188,544
Bank of N. S. Wales ...	321,576	2,660	181,791*	689,152	1,195,179
London Chartered	117,235	475	...	185,468	303,178
English, Scottish, and Australian.....	7,366	...	...	9,674	17,040
Totals	2,089,911	48,718	231,632	5,889,818	8,260,079

ASSETS.

	Coin and Bullion.	Landed Property.	Notes and Bills of other Banks.	Balances due from other Banks.	Debts due to the Bank.	Total.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Bank of Australasia	1,747,818	24,900	170,507	...	1,505,733	3,448,968
Bank of Victoria	585,184	3,089	16,077	96,534	970,789	1,671,675
Union Bank of Australia	943,505	22,106	48,069	2,741	1,437,747	2,454,168
Bank of New South Wales	373,950	23,695	9,524	59,149	731,404	1,197,722
London Chartered	198,974	...	...	...	403,276	602,250
English, Scottish, and Australian	39,999	...	54	1,364	29,513	70,930
Total	3,889,430	73,790	244,231	159,788	5,078,462	9,445,701

It may, in passing, be worth recording, in elucidation of these extraordinary figures, that the trade returns in Victoria for the year ending the 5th April, 1854, equalled, for the imports alone, no less a sum than £17,675,472, which would at once account for the large increase in the exports from this country in 1853, and also greatly explain the very rapid augmentation of the debts due to the banks—or, in other words, the expansion of the discount and general accommodation afforded to industrial interests.

From South Australia, the returns do not come to so recent a date; but, in the accounts to the end of 1853, there is ample evidence that the prosperity of older settlements is reflected upon the colony, which has largely benefited by its proximity to the gold fields, and that the trade conducted there is of a steady and solid character, much of it depending upon the agricultural interests which recently have been greatly developed. It

* Including branches of this bank.

cannot be denied that the present buoyant condition of affairs has been produced by the discoveries of gold; but if gold were to cease being produced, South Australia has happily other resources, in the valuable copper and lead mines, apart from its agricultural resources, which only require labour—the great desideratum in Australia—to maintain its present prosperous position.

LIABILITIES.

	Notes in Circulation.	Bills in Circulation.	Balances due to other Banks.	Deposits.	Total.
	£	£	£	£	£
South Australian Banking Company	159,824	57,602	3,455	854,296	1,075,177
Bank of Australasia	46,766	5,696	...	315,347	367,809
Union Bank of Australia	47,989	5,310	...	266,518	319,817
Totals	254,579	68,608	3,455	1,436,161	1,762,803

ASSETS.

	Coin and Bullion.	Landed Property.	Notes and Bills of other Banks.	Balances due from other Banks.	Debts due to the Banks.	Total.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
South Australian Banking Company	758,334	7,580	...	187,415	308,282	1,261,611
Bank of Australasia	374,859	10,428	...	...	62,227	447,514
Union Bank of Australia	253,504	1,051	2,944	...	95,925	353,424
Totals	1,386,697	19,059	2,944	187,415	466,434	2,062,549

These statements cannot fail to be regarded, upon the whole, as conclusive evidence of the great prosperity and sound trade of Australia. The point that causes most attention is the rapid manner in which the discounts of Victoria are being increased, and however profitable such an increase may be to the banks, and however much it may be an incident of the trade with this country, there can be little doubt that the imports of the colony have for a long period far exceeded the rate of consumption, and that the great monetary power there has led to an extent of overtrading, which cannot fail to produce embarrassment, although slight, among the shippers and traders of narrow means. The temptations indeed were great from the enormous profits many were reaping, and there was, moreover, the difficulty merchants experienced in regulating their supplies for so extraordinary a market, where the population was increasing weekly, and where the most extravagant expenditure

was being indulged in. But now that this excitement has subsided, the trading interests should profit by the lessons of the past; proceed with regularity and prudence in their shipments, and, above all, so reduce their obligations, as to restore their own accounts as well as the colonial markets to a sound and healthy state. The immense wealth of the colonies, after rendering all needful assistance as an auxiliary to the current trade, is required for the development of internal resources, and the creation of those public works so essential to the progress of new settlements. Not that banks should be expected to advance money for railways, docks, or city improvements, but that individual enterprise and energies should be directed to such undertakings; that the deposits in the banks should gradually be diverted to these channels; and that to provide for the contingency of gold finding being less available than at present as a means of employment, the labouring classes may have in this wealth the arteries of new life, which shall render the towns more habitable by civilised people, and the country districts more attractive to the husbandman from the return he receives for his industry.

With the extensive operations of last year, the exchanges between Australia and England are undergoing great fluctuations. The balance of trade being against the colonies, a pressure upon the banks has been made during the last few months for drafts on England, and if the amount could be ascertained, it would represent an astonishing aggregate. During the early period of the gold discoveries, when the trade was in an inverse ratio of its present state, drafts on England were as low as 8 per cent. discount, and now they have advanced to 5 per cent. premium. These rates are sufficient indication that bank drafts, like all other commodities, must follow the laws of supply and demand, and although the present premium looks a heavy tax upon the commercial community, the banks, on the other hand, are obliged to give par for gold, that is the full mint price, and be at a heavy expense in bringing it to this country for realisation. Indeed, the rupture with Russia has had a very sensible effect upon gold dealing, the war risk having added fully 20s. per cent. to the premium of insurance, which has now attained a rate doubly as high as when gold first became an article of import to this country. In relation to the exchanges, it is important to observe that sovereigns are now being sent from Australia, which is a state of things that many did not contemplate; and even those who knew that the exchanges would at all times settle their destination, few expected that coin so recently sent from England would again be in transit.

The conflict in which Europe is engaged will not, we trust, have any injurious effect upon Australia beyond those necessarily increased charges already imposed, which commerce at large sustains. There have been fears entertained in Australia of attack from the Russian fleet known to be in the Indian Seas, but these fears, it is now believed, will prove groundless, and if such should happily be the case, Australian interests are secure, provided care, vigilance and forethought be exercised by those engaged in the trade and banking of those colonies.

THE AMERICAN RAILWAY DEFALCATIONS.

THE discovery of the American railway defalcations has furnished the press of New York with an exciting topic for consideration; and the whole of the papers lately received contain a variety of facts in relation to these frauds. Although New York appears to have been the locality in which the greatest amount of mischief has been perpetrated, these transactions have by no means been confined to that city—Philadelphia and Boston having alike suffered from similar operations. The whole of the individuals compromised have failed; and while no settled plan has been adopted for arranging the liabilities incurred, some of the companies propose to adopt them, with the view of relieving the innocent purchasers. Thus, in the case of the Haarlem Railway, where the over-issue represents about £20,000, or £30,000, the directors recommend that the amount shall be absorbed and discharged by the company. With regard to the Newhaven Railway, in which Mr. R. Schuyler is the delinquent, and the Vermont Central Railway, in which Mr. Crane has also forfeited his character for integrity, no special measures are alluded to, and it is feared much litigation will ensue. There has been, of course, great clamour in several of the states for stringent laws to prevent a repetition of these delinquencies, and in that of New Hampshire the legislature have already passed an act making the over-issue of shares felony, punishable by a fine of £200, with imprisonment for any period from one to seven years. Owing to these painful exposures the American stock-markets have continued in a state of panic throughout the whole of July, and although the latest accounts represent a more settled feeling, prices are not likely to recover for a long period their previous buoyancy.

The interest attaching to the question of these over-issues has induced us to condense from the American papers the following narrative of their early discovery.

Messrs. R. and G. L. Schuyler, a firm which stood in the front rank of New York capitalists and railroad contractors, were connected with most of the great enterprises in the country up to the present time. They were officers of the following companies :—

	Capital.	
Housatonic Railroad.....	\$2,000,000,	R. Schuyler, transfer agent.
Brooklyn and Jamaica Railroad ..	300,000,	" secretary.
New York and Haarlem Railroad .	3,500,000,	G. L. Schuyler, president.
Rutland and Whitehall Railroad ..	850,000,	" "
Saratoga and Washington Railroad	899,000,	R. Schuyler, treasurer.
New York and Newhaven Railroad	3,000,000,	" pres. and trans. agt
Naugatuck Railroad.....	926,000,	" transfer agent.
Newhaven and Northampton Rld.	922,500,	" " "
Vermont Valley Railroad.....	505,480,	" " "

The names of these gentlemen sufficed to command success; and that of Mr. Robert Schuyler was connected with others, until, in the spring of 1853, the fearful accident upon the Newhaven Road, at Norwalk, induced him to resign some of his appointments, to devote his attention to that. The losses then sustained caused the suspension of the dividends of the Newhaven Road, the stock of which was, nevertheless, well supported until July, when it suddenly descended from 85 June 23rd, to 81 June 30th, to 79 July 1st, and 69 July 3rd. On this last-named day, holders of the stock, becoming alarmed, called on Mr. Morris Ketchum for advice and information in relation to the stock, and he immediately examined the transfer books to see who was selling, when the responses of the transfer clerk aroused his suspicions, and caused an immediate and thorough examination of the stock ledger, when it was discovered that 19,000 shares, or 1,900,000 dollars of false stock, had been issued to R. & G. L. Schuyler, and used by Mr. Robert Schuyler to raise money. Meantime, the following letter was received from Mr. Schuyler:—

New York, July 3.

Gentlemen—I beg to resign my seat in the board of directors of the New York and Newhaven Railroad Company, and also of the office of president, and of the appointment of transfer agent of the stock of the company.

Your attention to the stock ledger of your company is essential, as you will find there much that is wrong. The details can be furnished you with precision, though I cannot do so.

In reference to the connection of these transactions with R. & G. L. Schuyler, I wish to make my solemn assurance, that in no way has my brother been concerned in them, nor has he ever known or been informed of them. In fact, there was no mode in which he could obtain information, except from myself, and I have ever been quite as careful to keep him in ignorance as any other person. He could not even have ascertained the facts from our own books and accounts; and to those of the Newhaven Company in my charge he had no access.

Your obedient servant,

ROBERT SCHUYLER.

To the Directors of the N. Y. and N. H. Railroad.

The directors of the Newhaven Company then issued a notice, as follows:—

“NEW YORK AND NEWHAVEN RAILROAD COMPANY.—At a meeting of the board of directors of this company, holden this morning, it has been made apparent—on a hasty examination of the stock books, which have been kept by the late president, Robert Schuyler, as transfer agent, in New York—that by means of false entries, erasures, and other similar practices, an issue of illegal and fraudulent stock has been made within a few months past,

to the amount, as nearly as can be ascertained, of nearly twenty thousand shares, or two millions of dollars.

"A rigid examination will be immediately made, by order of the directors, of the books and papers; and the results, when accurately ascertained, will be made public.

"In the meantime the transfer books are closed by order of the board.

"By order of the board of directors,

"W. W. BOARDMAN, President, *pro tem.*

"New York, July 5, 1854."

The fact that Mr. Schuyler was president and transfer agent at the same time, and the certificate requiring only his signature, opened the door to these disastrous transactions; more particularly as, in consequence of the accident in 1853, at Norwalk, the dividends were suspended, there was hardly any check upon the issue of stock, except the integrity of Mr. Schuyler, which indeed was thought to be sufficient. But at that time the money-market began to tighten, with every appearance of a speedy return of ease, and the temptation to use this means, as a temporary expedient, by a house which, even then, was paying the most exorbitant rates for money, was too great. The continued stringency of the market has prevented recovery, and led to an explosion which has alarmed every one. The suspension of the firm of R. and G. L. Schuyler preceded the explosion in the stock transaction, and a full assignment was made of their effects for the payment of the debts of the firm *pro rata*. The liabilities are, including the Newhaven stock, estimated at 5,000,000 dollars. Attention was immediately directed to the affairs of the other companies with which the firm was connected. In relation to the Haarlem stock, at the morning board, it was announced that the committee, consisting of Mr. Nelson Robinson, Mr. R. M. Blachford, and Mr. Aikin, who were appointed at a meeting of the directors of the Haarlem Railroad Company, to examine the accounts, and the stock book especially, report an over-issue of 1,000 shares of Haarlem stock made by the secretary, Alexander Kyle, jun., who in his letter of resignation confessed using that amount for his own private purposes. General rumour carried the amount to 4,000 shares of the railroad bonds. An indebtedness of 200,000 to the company by Mr. Robert Schuyler was also discovered, but the investigation was not yet closed. Mr. Kyle is supposed to have lost the money in stock speculations: some 80,000 dollars of the Albany extension bonds convertible into stock had been received, and instead of cancelling them, Mr. Schuyler sold them and used the money. Mr. Gouverneur Morris, whose name is largely upon the paper of the Messrs. Schuyler, suspended payment upon those obligations until the extent and nature of his liabilities in that respect become known. The question arises immediately, how many are similarly situated? The Parker Vein explosion did not alarm the public, because confidence was never great. In the present case one of the most reliable of men has gone down under the pressure of temptation. The Newhaven Company will probably be compelled to assume the stock, making the capital 5,000,000 dollars instead of 3,000,000 dollars, and the result may be an action of the legislature to make the par of the stock 60 instead of 100. The effect of this explosion upon the market will probably be great. It will check the disposition of banks to loan upon such securities so much as heretofore; it may cause prudent capitalists gradually to sell out such securities as are not of the most unexceptionable character; it may cause foreign capitalists to pursue a similar course in relation to American securities. The result of all which will be drooping prices, and great difficulty in reviving speculation in stocks. There have been, already, instances of loans called in, upon good securities, under the

influence of panic feelings growing out of this Newhaven transaction; and capitalists, repelled from stocks, turn their attentions to other investments.

The *United States Economist*, referring to the "explosions" which have so frequently occurred in connection with American corporate undertakings, alludes to the great banking frauds of 1826 and later years. The attempt to glose over the conduct of Mr. R. Schuyler will, however, meet with no response in this country, his proceedings having been of the most discreditable nature. From the article mentioned we extract the following :—

The community has been recently startled with a recurrence of those defalcations which seem periodically to attack incorporations, through the unfaithfulness of the officers in charge. Within the last thirty years the public has been repeatedly surprised by some extensive fraud which has aroused suspicion in other companies, stimulating investigations leading to a sort of purification, which has lasted for a few years, until memory became blunted, suspicions lulled, vigilance relaxed, and confidence revived, when events are ripe for new explosions—occurring always after a season of apparent prosperity and enterprise has involved men in speculation, to sustain which they resort to any, even the most desperate means, until detection results. The great explosion and consequent conspiracy trials of 1826, lasted for many years as a warning. The Marble Bank, the Sun Insurance Company, the Life Insurance Company, the United States Lombard Insurance Company, the Franklin Manufacturing Company, Hudson Insurance Company, Greene County Bank at Catskill, the Tradesmen's Bank, the Fulton Bank, with many others, were all charged with frauds. The operations of these companies were mostly the issue of bonds without basis. The grand jury indicted a great number: Henry Eckford, G. S. Swift, Thomas Vermilyea, W. P. Rathbone, *Jacob Barker, Thomas Hyatt, S. T. Jackson, Charles Mowatt, S. J. Lambert, H. B. Lambert, G. W. Brown, Matthew L. Davis*, and others. The trials resulted in the conviction of those in italics. Mowatt and Hyatt were sentenced for two years to the Penitentiary, and the Lamberts one year. Hyatt was secretary of the Lombard, which, with a capital of only 30,000 dols., issued bonds for more than 1,000,000 dols. Eckford was acquitted. These examples introduced the most rigid honesty into corporate companies for a while, and the old-safety-fund system was invented to protect the "dear people" from bank failures. Confidence began to grow, and the country was prosperous during twelve years, when the universal break down of 1837 took place: all the banks and most of the merchants broke. The bankrupt law sponged out the incredible sum of 442,000,000 dols. of private debts. The habits of those years told fearfully upon the new race of corporate officers, and in the years 1841-2, defalcations were numerous. Some of the most remarkable of those of 1848 were as follows :—

New York Life and Trust.....	E. A. Nicoll (false certificates)...	ds. 349,769
Commercial Bank.....	Redfield (" entries)....	120,000
Ocean Insurance Company.....	Schermerhorn,(" ")....	110,000
Bank of Kentucky	Levis, transfer agent, (false stock)	1,300,000
U. S. Bank.....	Taken by officers, no vouchers...	1,200,000
Manhattan Bank	Newcomb	50,000
Virginia Bank	Dabney	500,000
Georgia Bank.....	Barker.....	80,000
Frederick Bank, Maryland		186,000

Norwich Railroad.....	President	10,000
Bank of Louisiana	Teller	60,000
Bank of Orleans	"	80,000
Canal Bank, New Orleans	"	100,000
Bank of Michigan	Officers	90,000
Illinois Bank	Mr. Town	90,000
Merchants' Bank, Baltimore ..	Clerk	10,000
Tennessee Bank at Nashville ..	"	7,000
Frankfort Bank	President	100,000
State Bank, Arkansas	Mr. Ball	64,000
Pennsylvania Bank	Smith, clerk	100,000
Western Bank	Israel, cashier	15,000
Camden Bank, N. J.	Peterson, clerk	13,000
Farmers' Bank, Troy	Jones, "	10,000
Western Bank, Georgia	Moore, "	75,000
Bank of Cape Fear, N. C.	Wingate, cashier	12,000
Franklin Bank, Baltimore	Steinberger	50,000
Newburyport Bank	Wyckoff	30,000
Millington, Maryland	Sherwood	50,000
Gallipolis Bank	Whitney	20,000

All these defalcations were discovered in rapid succession in connection with the United States Bank, the Manhattan Bank, and the American Life and Trust, which had been completely gutted by Governor W. H. Seward, who had borrowed 240,000 dollars on Chataque bonds and others. Amidst the almost universal dishonour, confidence in corporations and their managers seemed to be entirely sunk. The defalcation of Nicoll in Life and Trust caused a great sensation. It appeared that his operations had covered five years, in all which time he had obtained the signature of Mr. Bard, the president, to false certificates to the amount of nearly 400,000 dollars, without exciting suspicion, and so loose had its management become that his accounts were never examined. Newcomb, at the Manhattan, kept his cash short, although it was examined regularly. He carried into the directors' room bundles of notes to be counted; he then carried them out and brought others, and when necessary brought the same bundles twice over to make the tale right. Schermerhorn's operations had been extended over a long period. In the case of the Bank of Kentucky, Levis, the cashier of the Schuylkill Bank, at Philadelphia, was the transfer agent, and issued 1,300,000 dollars false stock. This the Bank of Kentucky was obliged to acknowledge; it bought in and cancelled some of it, and sued the Schuylkill Bank for damages.

The effect of all these explosions was to stimulate investigation, in the course of which a great many minor frauds were discovered; confidence grew slowly, and during six or eight years there was little enterprise in corporate securities. Since that period the railroad speculation has grown up, affording altogether a new class of paper operations. These have run wild in the last three years, and, being checked by adverse circumstances, yield the same bitter fruits of dishonour. The developments in Old Colony Railroad, and the transactions of Josiah Quincy, in Vermont Valley, and of Robert Schuyler, in Newhaven, are such as could scarcely have occurred with any old class of corporations.

Up to this time, however, when we consider the extent of the operations that have been conducted, the rapid multiplication of works, and the immense responsibilities that rest upon those who manage large capitals for others, while they are surrounded by every temptation to make short cuts to that goal, to reach which all are struggling, viz., wealth, we cannot

but be surprised, not that some fall, but that so many resist manfully the daily assaults upon their integrity. Although the frauds in the Newhaven Company are a public calamity, as well as a source of almost incalculable distress to private individuals, no one for a moment supposes that Robert Schuyler committed those frauds through sordid motives of private gain. He held situations of immense responsibility; he was at the head of gigantic enterprises, with the management of which he had been entrusted by his fellow citizens, confident in his skill and integrity. He found all those interests jeopardised through the adverse state of financial affairs generally. There are few persons in such a position that would hesitate to use all the means in their power to sustain that position, to uphold the interests committed to their care, in the hope that time might afford chances for recovery. He exhausted all legitimate means, and erred woefully and fatally in resorting to dishonest measures. Of the securities which he controlled, he illegally multiplied those that would sell, in order to support those that would not. He does not appear to have been a sensual debauchee, or a vulgar speculator in stocks for his own profit, with the means of others. He was the projector of great enterprises of undoubted public utility. These he sought to carry out to a successful end, and he failed because, amid the difficulties that closed around him, his mind swerved from that principle of strict integrity without which success itself is dishonour. Having earned, by a long course of honourable conduct, the respect of, we might say, the financial world, and become almost a "railroad king," who can estimate the struggles of mind and the fierce mental strife that attended the first desperate act which jeopardised his honour, or contemplate without sympathy the thickening despair that settled upon his spirit when resource after resource failed him, and the awful certainty of final perdition became daily more manifest! When lingering hope gave place to the dread necessity of facing public scorn, without the support of conscious rectitude, there is no cause for wonder that the catastrophe should have sent him to the bed of sickness, or that the pressure of a friendly adieu should draw from his groaning spirit the exclamation, "Would to God that you now grasped the hand of a dead man!" The Scriptures assure us that the wicked shall vainly call upon the mountains to cover them; and Robert Schuyler has lived to pray for death as a refuge from shame "greater than he can bear." What a moral is to be drawn from such a spectacle, and how little have the public to fear that so dread an example will be contagious!

That the public mind has been rudely shocked by these developments there can be no doubt. Severe losses have been sustained, and many a soul-barrowing case of pecuniary ruin among families has come to our knowledge, by losses, more particularly in Parker Vein, which has been more widely disseminated than either of the others amongst those least able to bear it. This case seems to come more directly within the class of conspiracies for which, in 1826, conviction was followed by imprisonment. It was, however, a company which owed most of the confidence it enjoyed from the public to the high mercantile name at its head. The Haarlem case was one of negligence of the proper officers; none of them are likely to be repeated while the public mind is impressed as it now is. The vigilance of corporate officers will be active, and the low state to which prices have fallen, under the panic, will recover under increasing abundance of money and that discriminating spirit which has been so greatly stimulated.

REDUCTION OF THE BANK'S RATE OF DISCOUNT.

THE Bank directors, on the 3rd of August, gave notice that the rate of discount will in future be 5 per cent. instead $5\frac{1}{2}$, which was previously the *minimum* quotation. Although the measure was not unexpected, it was scarcely anticipated that the announcement would have been made before some little further time had elapsed to ascertain with greater certainty the result of the harvest. Fortunately the weather has proved so favourable, that there appears little doubt of the result in the principal districts; and, notwithstanding the reports of potatoe blight, the supply of cereal and other provisions is likely to be more abundant. While, however, admitting that one great cause of anxiety has been removed, the general position of credit leads many people to expect that the value of money will be supported at rates at least ranging from $4\frac{1}{2}$ to 5 per cent. The latter is even the nearest point now for the negotiation of sound mercantile paper; and, with the abstraction of a considerable portion of the £5,000,000 required for Turkey, our resources will not in probability so rapidly increase, as to provide the amount exclusively from *ad interim* imports from Australia, the West Indies, and America. When the Bank raised their rate of discount, on the 11th of May last, from 5 to $5\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. Consols were at $88\frac{1}{2}$, and the stock of bullion was £12,608,079. Consols on the 3rd of August, stood at $92\frac{1}{4}$, and the stock of bullion £13,633,677.

The City editor of the *Times*, in announcing the alteration, thus alludes to the question:—

The Bank of England to-day have reduced their rate of discount from $5\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., at which it had stood since the 11th of May, to 5 per cent. This measure was fully anticipated at an earlier date, but it created some surprise at the moment, as the increased ease in the money-market has not been of long duration, and the prospects of the future will all depend on the harvest operations of the next fortnight or three weeks. The state of the weather throughout the morning, which had caused great dullness in the Stock Exchange, appears also to diminish the probability of such an announcement. At the same time, there is no disposition to regard it with dissatisfaction. The directors have, of course, acted from their view of the accounts which will appear in the *Gazette* of to-morrow evening, and the diminution in the demand for accommodation within the present week. All that requires to be borne in mind is, that the resolution has not such significance as would have attached to it at a later time; and that, although there is reason to hope, after a period of between two and three years, during which an upward movement of the rate has been going on without the slightest interruption, that the greatest inconvenience is at length passed, and that a steady turn the other way may now be witnessed, there is as yet no positive ground for that conclusion. If the harvest had been secured, the public might have entered into arrangements with the certainty not only that the reduction would be permanent, but also that it would speedily be carried further. As it is, they must not allow themselves to be influenced by any temporary movements in the money-market, but look solely to the reports of the crops and the tendency of prices on the Corn Exchange. If these should still be favourable, all other apprehensions may be dismissed, since trade in every quarter is inherently sound, and the Board of Trade returns published yesterday give every proof that

could be desired of the limited check which the war and its expenses are capable of inflicting upon our prosperity.

The writer in the *Morning Chronicle*, remarks :—

The directors of the Bank of England, at their usual weekly board meeting this afternoon, resolved upon reducing the rate of interest for the discount of commercial bills from $5\frac{1}{2}$ to 5 per cent. This measure appears to have been very unexpected; but, although it may call forth some disapprobation, there can be no doubt that it will be generally approved. There may be some difference of opinion as to the safety of the course adopted; but the future state of the weather will chiefly resolve this question. The directors have acted upon certain existing facts, such as the easier state of the money-market during the last fortnight, the course of the foreign exchanges, the state of the bullion in the Bank vaults, the probable supply and demand of the precious metals, the state of the commercial interests, the prospects of the harvest, and the character of the weather for the last week or two. Upon the two latter considerations all the former necessarily depend, and their importance, therefore, cannot be over estimated. If the weather, which has undergone so great a change within the last four-and-twenty hours, should again become favourable, as is partially indicated by the barometer, there is reason to hope that the excessive fall of rain last night and this morning will not be attended with very serious results to the standing corn. What the final result of the entire harvest of the United Kingdom will be, remains, of course, to be seen; but as it is highly important to obtain some reliable data for present consideration, much time and trouble have been devoted to the subject. Generally, the yield is expected to be large, and beyond an average; and if the result of the harvest confirms this view, there can be little question that the decision of the Bank directors in lowering the rate of discount has been prudent.

With regard to the same question, the *Daily News* observes—

The directors of the Bank of England, at their weekly meeting to-day, reduced their minimum rate of discount from $5\frac{1}{2}$ to 5 per cent. We have, on several recent occasions, reported that the tendency of the money-market was in this direction, and the Bank can scarcely be blamed for endeavouring to preserve its discount business by reducing its rate in accordance with the charges already current in Lombard-street and elsewhere for first class bills. There are many parties, however, who, looking to the uncertainty still attending the harvest, and to the position of the foreign exchanges, think that this step of the Bank is premature. They argue that the Bank's stock of bullion shows as yet but a comparatively unimportant recovery from the lowest point recently touched, and that the late arrivals of the precious metals, heavy though they be, have so far little more than sufficed to meet the continental demand. The exchanges, it is further urged, present no signs of any improvement of importance, and their adverse tendency, natural to a period of war, is likely to be aggravated by a reduction in the rate of discount. How far these opinions are correct, remains to be proved by time. The practical testimony, however, thus afforded by the Bank directors of their belief that the period of greatest pressure in the money-market has, so far as they can foresee, passed over, cannot fail to be very favourably received throughout the country, and will probably tend to give some stimulus to trade, especially if harvest prospects preserve a favourable appearance. The effect of the Bank movement on the stock-markets has been much less than many persons were prepared to expect.

NEGOTIATION OF THE TURKISH LOAN.

THE public have been prepared for the negotiation of a Turkish loan, whenever the proper securities could be offered for the punctual discharge of the dividends; and these, at length, appear to have been satisfactorily adjusted. The failure of the late attempt by Messrs. Rothschilds, may be ascribed to the peculiar position of the money-market at the moment, and the absence of cordial co-operation on the part of other capitalists, who were not satisfied with the terms proposed. The present loan of £5,000,000, brought out under the auspices of Sir J. L. Goldsmid and Mr. J. Horsley Palmer, has been arranged in a manner which has secured for it an amount of patronage equal to that which attended the famous operation in 1851, when the scrip reached $11\frac{1}{4}$ premium. The additional pledge of the Egyptian tribute, which, notwithstanding an alleged claim by the parties who lately endeavoured to re-organise the Bank of Constantinople, has been evidently hypothecated to the purposes of the loan, affords a strong guarantee for the fulfilment of the contract. If any further warrantry were required that the whole transaction has been carried out with due regularity, it is to be found in the declarations of the Earl of Clarendon, and M. Drouyn de Lhuys, the latter of whom has, since the appearance of the official notification, furnished the required statement. The introduction of the first £2,000,000 has been attended with perfect success; the contract price of 80 for a 6 per cent. investment, with participating advantages in a future issue, encouraging the moneyed interest to support the stock with firmness. The following is the notification in its extended form:—

"TURKISH 6 PER CENT. LOAN FOR £5,000,000 IN BONDS, WITH COUPONS PAYABLE HALF-YEARLY, 10TH OF APRIL AND 10TH OF OCTOBER, 1854.

Subscriptions to be received in London and Paris, to be redeemed at par by equal annual instalments of 1 per cent. per annum; the first drawing to be made on the 1st of March, 1856.

This loan is not only charged on the general revenue of Turkey, but is specially secured, principal and interest, by the assignment of 30,000,000 piastres (£282,000 sterling), tribute payable by the Pasha of Egypt to his Majesty the Sultan, by virtue of the treaty of 1841, contracted under the sanction of the great Powers of Europe.

This tribute is to be remitted half-yearly, direct from the Pasha of Egypt to the agents in London.

The contract, executed in duplicate, will be deposited, as well as the firmans, now in the hands of the representatives of Turkey—one copy in the Bank of England, and the other in the Bank of France, in the names of the representatives of the Sublime Porte at London and Paris respectively, and the undersigned. The undersigned are prepared to receive applications to the extent of £2,000,000 sterling of this loan, at the price of 80 per cent., on the following conditions:—

The payments for the loan to be made as follows:—

- 15 per cent. on the 22nd instant.
- 15 per cent. on the 22nd of September,
- 20 per cent. on the 20th of October,
- 15 per cent. on the 21st of November,
- 15 per cent. on the 19th of December.

On default of payment of any instalment on the day fixed, the previous payment to be forfeited.

Discount at the rate of £5 per cent. per annum on the instalments will be allowed for prompt payment; and the holders of the scrip will have the option of taking, at the same price, and on the terms of the present issue, a further amount, equal to half their present subscriptions, within one month from the 17th inst., upon notes hereafter to be given by the undersigned. The remainder of the loan is not to be issued at an earlier period than five months from the 17th inst. below 85 per cent. The loan is to be redeemed by equal annual instalments of 1 per cent. per annum, to be applied by paying off at par. Bonds to be drawn by lot in the usual manner. Due notice to be given of the bonds drawn for payment.

The Turkish Government reserves to itself the right of paying off the whole or any part of this loan at par at the expiration of 15 years from the 1st of January next, upon giving six months' notice of their intention to do so.

Letters of application to be addressed to the agents, under cover, to Messrs. Mullins, Marshall and Daniell, Lombard-street, on or before the 17th inst.

ISAAC L. GOLDSMID,
J. HORSLEY PALMER.

The undersigned have the satisfaction to acquaint the public that they are authorised by the Earl of Clarendon, Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, to state that this loan is negotiated with the knowledge of the English Government; that Her Majesty's Government is satisfied that the loan and the approbation of the above-mentioned 30,000,000 piastres (£282,000) per annum of the Egyptian tribute are duly authorised by His Majesty the Sultan; and, further, that the representatives of the Sublime Porte at Paris are empowered, in virtue of imperial firmans, to ratify the contract for the loan in the name of His Majesty the Sultan, and Lord Clarendon relies with confidence upon the Turkish government fulfilling with good faith the engagements they have entered into.

The undersigned are assured that a similar declaration will be made by M. Drouyn de Lhuys, the French Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.

ISAAC L. GOLDSMID,
J. HORSLEY PALMER.

London, August 16."

MERCANTILE SUSPENSIONS.

SINCE the appearance of the last number of the *Bankers' Magazine*, several mercantile failures have occurred, but those connected with London have not represented a large amount. Several suspensions have taken place in America, but they have been principally produced through the distrust occasioned by the discovery of the late railway frauds.

July.—E. Crane, Boston, United States, merchant.

J. Tucker, Philadelphia, merchant.

McCullough, Morris, and Co., Cincinnati, merchants.

Aug.—Pegler Brothers, London, merchants.

M. Morpurgo and Co., London, corn merchants.

H. Rogers and Sons, Wolverhampton, manufacturers.

J. B. Adams, Dublin, corn merchant.

Werthemstein and Sons, Vienna, merchants.

The American failures involve no responsibilities on this side ; and, although for a considerable amount, will scarcely affect the general mercantile interest, being mixed up with stock speculations and other doubtful engagements. The suspension of Pegler Brothers is stated to be only temporary, and it is feared that mining operations have in their case interfered with their legitimate business. The depression in the cutlery trade has caused the failure of Messrs. Rogers and Sons ; but the estate, it is expected, will yield a fair dividend. In the case of Mr. J. Berry Adams, the amount of liabilities is not large, and speculative transactions in grain have created his difficulties ; the offer of a composition of 6s. in the pound has been rejected. The affairs of Messrs. Morpurgo and Werthemstein have been greatly mixed up together, and their liabilities, in the aggregate, are considerable. They had also connexion in business with Mr. S. Gopceвич, of Trieste. M. S. Zagury, who lately failed, has been adjudicated a bankrupt.

ADVANCES ON FICTITIOUS WARRANTS.

THE interest excited by the disclosures made in the course of the evidence taken in the charges preferred against Mr. J. W. Cole, has not in the least diminished. The whole of the investigation demonstrates that a deep-rooted conspiracy existed among some parties, for circulating fictitious warrants, and that these reached Mr. Cole, who used them largely to obtain advances. Three or four distinct cases, involving considerable sums have been brought home to him, and upon these he has been committed to take his trial. The testimony in each was similar to that which we published last month in the *Bankers' Magazine*, the only additional important fact elicited being the position of Mr. Maltby, the wharfinger, who, by a dexterous manœuvre, was enabled to pass goods from his own to a neighbouring warehouse, and thus make them represent double sets of warrants. The amount involved in these doubtful transactions cannot as yet be accurately stated, but it is believed it nearly reaches £200,000, and the question for consideration is—What has become of the money? Heavy losses, no doubt, have recently been incurred by Mr. Cole, but it is also well known that he was in a position eighteen months or two years since, to have retired with a moderate competency. At the last moment his affairs have been placed under the administration of bankruptcy,* and it may therefore be expected that a searching inquiry will be made into his various trading operations, to elucidate the mystery connected with his present position.

Messrs. Davidson and Gordon, whose sudden disappearance just previously to the apprehension of Mr. Cole first produced unpleasant suspicions, have not surrendered to their bankruptcy. A proclamation of outlawry was consequently made against them on the 19th of

* Mr. J. W. Cole, trading under the firm of Cole Brothers, was made a bankrupt on the 17th of August ; on the following day, the 18th of August, he was committed to take his trial for obtaining advances on fictitious warrants.

August, in Basinghall Street; but from what transpired before Commissioner Fane, it is thought they will eventually be compelled to make an appearance and give an account of their affairs to their creditors. This we infer from the following statement to the court:—

Mr. Linklater said, the bankrupts were not in this country, and it was not expected that they would surrender to pass their examination. The debts were above £500,000, and they had made away with nearly all their effects. The assignees, however, had been very diligent, and a large sum had been traced to the bankrupts' possession. He had to apply that the customary proclamation of outlawry might be ordered, and it was hoped that when that proclamation had been made the creditors would be able to command the presence of the bankrupts.

METROPOLITAN JOINT-STOCK BANKS.

THE London and County and the Royal British Banks having published their usual half-yearly accounts,—the whole of the dividends declared by the metropolitan joint-stock banks are presented to view. They show, in every case, steady progress, while some of the results are sufficient to startle the most sanguine supporters of the system. The success that has attended operations is most clearly exhibited by the following table, including the amount of paid-up capital, deposits, guarantee fund, and rate of distribution. The growth of business continues very great, the aggregate deposits held by the six banks having increased more than 21 per cent. during the year, their amount now being £25,434,700, or nearly double the present deposits held by the Bank of England, including those of the Government.

Banks.	Paid-up Capital.	Deposits, &c.	Guarantee Fund.	Rate of Dividend just declared.
	£	£	£	
London and Westminster—established 1834. 5 branches	1,000,000	6,892,470	125,307	12 per cent. per annum, leaving surplus for six months of £13,900.
London Joint-Stock—established 1836—1 branch	600,000	5,837,900	153,549	10 per cent. per annum, leaving surplus for six months of £24,695.
Union of London—established 1839. 2 branches	422,900	7,031,477	50,000	15 per cent. per annum, leaving surplus for six months of £20,696.
London and County—established 1839. 58 branches	399,625	3,506,560	60,759	6 per cent. per annum, leaving surplus for six months of £12,945.
Commercial—established 1840. 1 branch	300,000	1,265,903	64,012	10 per cent. per annum, namely, dividend at rate of 6 per cent., and bonus of 16s. per share.
Royal British—established 1849. 4 branches	50,000	900,390	12,416	6 per cent. per annum, leaving surplus for six months of £869.

THE BANK OF FRANCE.

THE *Moniteur* publishes the following monthly debtor and creditor account of the Bank of France, made up to the 10th of August :—

	DEBTOR.	F.	C.
Capital of the bank		91,250,000	0
Reserve of the bank		12,980,750	14
Reserve of the bank in landed property		4,000,000	0
Bank notes in circulation		468,734,300	0
Do. of the branch banks		141,223,725	0
Bank notes to order		6,018,276	40
Receipts payable at sight		10,653,556	0
Treasury account current, creditor		62,654,913	48
Sundry accounts current		113,962,581	85
Do. with the branch banks		34,415,624	0
Dividends payable		1,380,581	25
Discounts and sundry interests		1,818,166	59
Commission on deposits		8,666	65
Rediscounted during the last six months		916,188	68
Protested bills		144,406	54
Sundries		4,890,660	26
		F.955,052,396	84

	CREDITOR.	F.	C.
Cash in hand		296,547,697	41
Cash in the branch banks		178,026,801	0
Commercial bills overdue		447,653	84
Commercial bills discounted, but not yet due, of which 51,338,669f. 29c. were received from the branch banks		114,511,469	34
Do. in the branch banks		146,187,540	0
Advanced on deposit of bullion		517,000	0
Ditto by the branch banks		1,137,933	0
Advanced on French public securities		18,958,736	10
Do. by the branch banks		6,071,950	0
Advanced on railway securities		40,414,500	0
Do. by the branch banks		13,007,470	0
Advanced to the State on the treaty of June 30, 1848		65,000,000	0
Government stock reserved		10,000,000	0
Do. disposable		55,447,573	97
Hotel and furniture of the Bank		4,000,000	0
Landed property of the branch banks		3,766,484	0
Expenses of the management of the bank		306,436	77
Sundries		703,151	41
		F.955,052,396	84

Certified by the Deputy Governor of the Bank of France, T. E. GAUTIER.

It appears from these returns that the metallic reserve has increased during the past month 19,595,997f. in Paris, and 3,037,668f. in the branch banks. The discount accommodation has decreased both in Paris and in the depart-

ments; in the former 4,358,370*l.* 20*s.*, and in the latter 10,500,240*l.* The advances on public securities have diminished in Paris 2,900*l.*, and in the departments 502,200*l.* The notes in circulation have increased in Paris 1,837,200*l.*, and in the departments 7,044,750*l.* The treasury account current has fallen off 5,523,037*l.*; those of private individuals have increased 2,926,986*l.* in Paris, and 2,422, 571*l.* in the departments.

COINAGE OF CAROLUS DOLLARS.

THE annexed extract of a letter from Canton, mentions the commencement of a system of coinage by private speculation, which has already had some influence in lowering the extraordinary premium which, owing to their popularity, for the purpose of hoarding, has recently been obtained for Carolus dollars. The latest accounts, however, state that some difficulty has been experienced in bringing them into active circulation.

Some Shroffs have established a mint for the coinage of Carolus dollars in the neighbourhood of Canton, and I forward in the Southampton packet two specimens, from which you will see that they are quite as well executed as the new coins which have lately reached us from London. They commenced to sell them at 15 to 16 per cent. premium; but a small quantity (500) which I sent up a few days ago by a clipper to Shanghai only cost us 9 per cent. premium, and I could have got a similar lot in Canton yesterday at 8 per cent. premium. They can only at present turn out about 1,000 per diem, but if they pass current at Shanghai, and the mandarins do not interfere with the coinage here, the supply will be unlimited.

TRADE OF THE UNITED KINGDOM.

THE Board of Trade returns for the month ending the 5th of July were issued on the 2nd of August, and again present very satisfactory results. The declared value of our exports shows an increase, as compared with the corresponding month of last year, of £934,908, although upon that occasion the improvement was unusually large. The chief augmentation has again been in metals, owing to the universal demand for iron, but cotton and woollen manufactures are also on the favourable side. The other items, with the exception of hardware and cutlery, which likewise figure for a large total, offer nothing for particular remark, but indicate a sound condition of trade in almost all departments. The only articles which show a falling off of the slightest importance are linen manufactures and yarn. The subjoined table gives the exact increase or decrease in the shipments under each head:—

DECLARED VALUE OF EXPORTATIONS.

Month ending July 5.	1853.	1854.	Increase.	Decrease.
Alkali—viz., soda	£31,921	£38,010	£6,089	—
Beer and ale	110,368	129,722	19,354	—
Butter	41,807	57,165	15,358	—
Candles	8,728	9,720	992	—
Cheese	6,757	5,663	—	£1,094
Coals and culm	169,546	207,618	38,072	—
Cordage and cables	14,452	28,049	13,597	—
Cotton manufactures	2,004,588	2,168,504	163,916	—
Cotton yarn	462,768	592,823	130,055	—
Earthenware	89,485	116,082	26,597	—
Fish	6,734	17,117	10,383	—
Glass manufactures	39,695	53,254	13,559	—
Haberdashery and millinery	321,695	305,752	—	15,943
Hardwares and cutlery	271,737	349,102	77,365	—
Leather... ..	102,805	125,570	22,765	—
Linen manufactures	400,406	340,967	—	59,439
Linen yarn	85,731	61,307	—	24,424
Maclinery	124,475	166,590	42,115	—
Metals	1,087,459	1,440,081	352,622	—
Oil and seeds	33,826	23,199	—	10,627
Painters' colours, &c.	18,335	34,861	16,526	—
Salt	24,648	25,759	1,111	—
Silk manufactures... ..	126,143	122,708	—	3,435
Silk, thrown	12,794	13,593	799	—
Silk, twist, and yarn	16,194	25,019	8,825	—
Soap	29,232	21,411	—	7,821
Stationery	45,779	60,026	14,247	—
Sugar, refined	18,339	11,265	—	7,074
Wool, sheep or lambs'	30,224	91,130	60,906	—
Woollen manufactures... ..	909,845	952,047	42,202	—
Woollen yarn	126,217	113,527	—	12,690
Total... ..	6,772,733	7,707,641		

The aggregate value of our exports during the first six months of the year has been £43,433,003, against £41,866,557 in the corresponding half of 1853; showing an increase of £1,566,446, or more than $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., which has occurred in the following order:—

Month ending	Increase.	Decrease.
February 5	—	£368,748
March 5	£344,784	—
April 5	993,572	—
May 5	—	747,527
June 5	409,457	—
July 5	934,908	—

As compared with the same period of 1852, there has been an increase of £9,883,611

With regard to imported commodities, the returns indicate a steady consumption. Wheat and other grain show an increase during the month, but there has been a diminution in flour. For the half-year, the aggregate totals give an increase of nearly 15 per cent. in the importations of grain, and 16 per cent. on flour, as compared with the corresponding six months of 1853. Tea still shows the effects of the diminished demand consequent upon the large purchases made after

the last reduction of the duty, although for the half-year the consumption presents a slight increase. This increase, however, bears no proportion to the augmented importation in that period, which has amounted to 46,384,200lbs. against 38,004,701lbs. in 1853. Coffee, cocoa, sugar, wine, and tobacco show a remarkably steady consumption for the half-year, as well as for the month. The importations of wine have been very large, in consequence of the desire of the trade to provide against the scarcity anticipated from the vine disease.

Subjoined are the quantities of provisions, &c., imported and taken for home consumption : —

Month ending July 5.	Imported.		Home Consumption.	
	1853.	1854.	1853.	1854.
Grain, wheat, quarters	331,193	356,963	331,193	357,104
Grain of other descriptions, qrs. .	151,035	197,961	151,035	197,961
Indian corn, quarters	118,173	147,071	118,173	147,071
Flour and meal, cwt.	369,861	222,564	369,863	222,564
Provisions—Bacon, pork, lard, cwt.	95,743	225,461	Free.	Free.
Butter and cheese, cwt. . . .	68,835	73,523	73,708	72,112
Animals, No.	24,929	19,476	Free.	Free.
Eggs, No.	16,030,834	14,625,994	16,360,774	14,625,994
Cocoa, lb.	1,044,968	408,153	309,242	300,708
Coffee, British, lb.	7,119,164	5,408,724	2,449,152	2,642,704
Ditto, foreign, lb.	2,877,469	710,035	590,313	393,036
Total coffee	9,996,633	6,118,759	3,039,465	3,035,740
Sugar—				
West India, cwt.	560,953	193,545	368,882	421,722
Mauritius, cwt.	82,400	164,104	151,109	220,753
East India, cwt.	56,563	38,816	105,238	97,621
Foreign, cwt.	253,217	172,703	10,931	7,815
Total sugar	953,133	569,168	636,160	747,911
Tea, lb.	4,056,680	2,884,619	7,462,079	4,840,716
Rice, cwt.	116,132	216,532	73,839	82,801
Spirits, gallons	758,079	901,057	330,430	320,622
Wines, gallons	867,672	1,114,567	592,545	554,338
Opium, lb.	4,080	182	6,108	3,888
Tobacco, lb.	1,395,825	724,315	2,310,482	2,451,005
Currants, figs and raisins, cwt. .	18,306	7,870	58,720	29,435
Spices, lb.	594,313	482,442	368,268	270,977
Ditto cwt.	1,624	60	338	235

The following are the comparative imports and exports of raw material, showing again an increase in tallow and hemp :—

Month ending July 5.	Imported.		Exported.	
	1853.	1854.	1853.	1854.
Flax, cwt.	260,324	158,188	—	—
Hemp, cwt.	64,704	106,867	—	—
Raw silk, lb.	202,077	471,765	25,547	193,315
Cotton, cwt.	1,002,072	881,908	94,452	102,082
Wool, lb.	12,681,922	13,922,889	1,400,533	2,663,755
Tallow, cwt.	44,057	54,323	—	—

Of silk manufactures the totals stand thus :—

Month ending July 5.	Imported.		Home Consumption.	
	1853.	1854.	1853.	1854.
Silk manufactures of Europe, lb...	54,889	46,120	52,826	44,467
Ditto, of Indian pieces'... ..	51,718	70,531	11,578	6,497

The importation of other articles during the month has been on an average scale. Glass manufactures exhibit a large increase ; hides and leather manufactures a large decrease. In metals there has been a falling off, except in tin and iron ; and the same in the case of dyeing stuffs, except in indigo and lac dye. In the importation of timber there has been no material variation, but there has been a decrease in the consumption ; while, with regard to oils, there has been a falling off in the arrivals of palm and train, and an increase in other sorts.

Banking and Commercial Law.

THE NEW STAMP ACT.

IN another page will be found all the sections of the new act which affect bankers, together with the scale of duties on inland and foreign bills of exchange and promissory notes. We shall here point out those matters respecting which alterations have been made.

The act comes into operation from and after the 10th day of October.

A great reduction is made on the duty payable on inland bills of exchange and promissory notes, and the distinction between long and short dates is abolished. In other respects the stamp laws affecting these instruments are not altered. For instance, the adhesive stamp cannot be used, and the document cannot be stamped after it has been written out.

The same amount of duty is imposed on foreign bills of exchange as on inland, and this duty is to be paid by means of the adhesive stamp. The act does not appear to touch foreign promissory notes. Cheques are prohibited from being circulated more than fifteen miles from the place where they are payable, unless a penny stamp should be affixed to them. The limitation of the amount for which a cheque is drawn, which prohibited cheques under 20s., is repealed, and they may now be drawn for any amount.

Adhesive receipt and draft stamps for one penny are not in

future to be confined to the peculiar instruments to which they are by name appropriated, but may be used promiscuously, either for receipts or drafts.

All evasions of the duties or limitations on bankers' paper by means of the penny stamp are prohibited; and all bills, drafts, or orders, which shall be issued by any banker, or the agent of any banker, for the payment of money to the bearer on demand, and all bills, drafts, or notes so issued, which shall entitle or be intended to entitle the bearer or holder thereof, without indorsement, or without any further or other indorsement than may be thereon at the time of the issuing thereof, to the payment of any sum of money on demand whether the same shall be so expressed or not, in whatever form and by whomsoever such bills, drafts, or notes shall be drawn or made shall be deemed to be bank notes within the meaning of the statutes relating thereto.

The exemption in the old stamp acts in favour of post letters acknowledging the receipt of securities for money is repealed.

These are the leading features of the new law. For details we must refer to the act itself. Beyond the reduction of the duty on bills of exchange and promissory notes there is not much matter for congratulation. A few doubtful points may be settled, but they are settled in favour of the revenue. Another statute is also added to the already numerous and complicated statutes affecting the stamp laws, on which such varied and important interests are made to depend.

1. Old duties on instruments named in schedule repealed, by the new duties therein set forth and imposed.

Duties on bills drawn out of the United Kingdom to be denoted by adhesive stamps.

3. The duties by this act granted in respect of bills of exchange drawn out of the United Kingdom shall attach and be payable upon all such bills as shall be paid, indorsed, transferred, or otherwise negotiated within the United Kingdom, wheresoever the same may be payable, and the said duties shall be denoted by adhesive stamps, to be provided by the Commissioners of Inland Revenue for that purpose, and to be affixed to such bills as hereinafter directed.

Bills purporting to be drawn abroad deemed for the purposes of this act to be so drawn.

4. Every bill of exchange which shall purport to be drawn at any place out of the United Kingdom shall, for all the purposes of this act, be deemed to be a foreign bill of exchange drawn out of the United Kingdom, and shall be chargeable with stamp duty accordingly, notwithstanding that in fact the same may have been drawn within the United Kingdom.

The holder of a bill drawn out of the United Kingdom to affix an adhesive stamp thereon before negotiating it.—Penalty for negotiating such bill without a stamp affixed, or neglecting to cancel such stamp.

5. The holder of any bill of exchange drawn out of the United Kingdom, and not having a proper adhesive stamp affixed thereon, as herein directed,

shall, before he shall present the same for payment, or indorse, or transfer, or in any manner negotiate such bill, affix thereon a proper adhesive stamp, for denoting the duty by this act charged on such bill; and the person who shall indorse, transfer, or negotiate such bill shall, before he shall deliver the same out of his hands, custody, or power, cancel the stamp so affixed, by writing thereon his name, or the name of his firm, and the date of the day and year on which he shall so write the same, to the end that such stamp may not be again used for any other purpose; and if any person shall present for payment, or shall pay or indorse, transfer or negotiate any such bill as aforesaid, whereon there shall not be such adhesive stamp as aforesaid, duly affixed, or if any person who ought, as directed by this act, to cancel such stamp in manner aforesaid, shall refuse or neglect so to do, such person so offending in any such case, shall forfeit the sum of fifty pounds; and no person who shall take or receive from any other person any such bill as aforesaid, either in payment or as a security, or by purchase or otherwise, shall be entitled to recover thereon, or to make the same available for any purpose whatever, unless at the time when he shall so take or receive such bill there shall be such stamp as aforesaid affixed thereon, and cancelled in the manner hereby directed.

Penalty for drawing and issuing, or transferring or negotiating bills purporting to be drawn in a set, and not drawing the whole number of the set.—Penalty on taking or receiving such bills.

6. If any person shall, within the United Kingdom, draw and issue any bill of exchange payable out of the United Kingdom, purporting to be drawn in a set, and shall not draw and issue on paper duly stamped as required by law, the whole number of bills which such bill purports the set to consist of, or if any person shall, within the United Kingdom, transfer or negotiate any such bill of exchange as aforesaid, purporting to be drawn in a set, and shall not at the same time transfer or deliver on paper duly stamped as aforesaid, the whole number of bills which such bill purports the set to consist of, every such person so offending in any of such cases, shall forfeit the sum of one hundred pounds; and if any person shall take or receive in the United Kingdom any such bill as aforesaid, either in payment or as a security, or by purchase or otherwise, without having transferred or delivered to him, duly stamped as aforesaid, the whole number of bills which such bill purports the set to consist of, he shall not be entitled to recover on any such bill, or to make the same available for any purpose whatever.

Unstamped drafts on bankers not to be circulated beyond 15 miles of the place where made payable.—Penalty on persons offending.

7. And whereas, under and by virtue of certain acts relating to stamp duties, certain drafts or orders for the payment of any sum of money to the bearer on demand, drawn upon any banker or person acting as a banker, residing or transacting the business of a banker within fifteen miles of the place where such drafts or orders are issued, are exempted from all stamp duty, and it is expedient to prevent the negotiating or circulating of such drafts or orders unstamped at any place beyond the distance of fifteen miles from the place where the same are made payable: Be it enacted, that no such draft or order as aforesaid shall, unless the same be duly stamped as a draft or order, be remitted or sent to any place beyond the distance of fifteen miles in a direct line from the bank or place at which the same is made payable or be received in payment, or as a security, or be otherwise negotiated or circulated at any place beyond the said distance; and if any person shall remit or send any draft or order not duly stamped as aforesaid, to any place beyond the distance aforesaid, or shall receive the same in payment or as a security, or in any manner negotiate or circulate the same at any such last-mentioned place, he shall forfeit the sum of fifty pounds.

Drafts lawfully issued unstamped may, by affixing thereto an adhesive stamp, be negotiated beyond the distance of 15 miles.

8. Provided always, that it shall be lawful for any person who shall receive any such draft or order as aforesaid, at any place within the said distance of fifteen miles from the bank or place at which the same is made payable, which draft or order shall have been lawfully issued unstamped, to affix thereto a proper adhesive stamp, and to cancel such stamp by writing thereon his name or the initial letters of his name, and thereupon such draft or order may lawfully be received and negotiated at any place beyond the distance aforesaid, anything herein contained notwithstanding.

Provisions of 17 Geo. 3, c. 30, as extends to drafts on bankers, repealed.

9. And whereas an act was passed in the seventeenth year of the reign of King George the Third, chapter thirty, for restraining the negotiation of promissory notes and inland bills of exchange under a limited sum: Be it enacted, that the said act, and any act or acts continuing and perpetuating the same, shall, so far as they respectively extend or may be deemed or construed to extend to any draft on a banker for payment of money held for the use of the drawer, be and the same are hereby repealed.

Adhesive stamps denoting the duty of one penny may be used for receipts or drafts without regard to their special appropriation.

10. The adhesive stamps provided by the Commissioners of Inland Revenue for denoting the duty of one penny payable on receipts and on drafts or orders for the payment of money to the bearer, or to order on demand, respectively, may lawfully be used for the purpose of denoting the like amount of duty either on a receipt or on such draft or order as aforesaid, without regard to the special appropriation thereof for the other of such instruments by having its name on the face thereof, anything in any act or acts contained to the contrary notwithstanding.

What shall be deemed bank notes within the meanings of 7 and 8 Vic. c. 32, and 8 and 9 Vic., cc. 38 and 37.

11. And whereas an act was passed in the seventh and eighth years of Her Majesty's reign, chapter thirty-two, to regulate the issue of bank notes; and an act was passed in the eighth and ninth years of Her Majesty's reign, chapter thirty-eight, to regulate the issue of bank notes in Scotland; and another act was passed in the last-mentioned years, chapter thirty-seven, to regulate the issue of bank notes in Ireland; and in order to prevent evasions of the regulations and provisions of the said respective acts it is expedient to define what shall be deemed to be bank notes within the meaning thereof respectively: be it enacted, that all bills, drafts, or notes (other than notes of the Bank of England) which shall be issued by any banker or the agent of any banker for the payment of money to the bearer on demand, and all bills, drafts, or notes so issued which shall entitle or be intended to entitle the bearer or holder thereof, without endorsement, or without any further or other endorsement than may be thereon at the time of the issuing thereof, to the payment of any sum of money on demand, whether the same shall be so expressed or not, in whatever form and by whomsoever such bills, drafts, or notes shall be drawn or made, shall be deemed to be bank notes of the banker by whom or by whose agent the same shall be issued within the meaning of the said three several acts last mentioned, and within all the clauses, provisions, and regulations thereof respectively.

All bills, drafts, and notes deemed bank notes under the above recited acts liable to stamp duties, &c.

12. All bills, drafts, and notes which by or under this act, or the said three several acts last mentioned, or any of them respectively, are declared or deemed to be bank notes, shall be subject and liable to the stamp duties, and composition for stamp duties, imposed by or payable under any act or acts in force upon or in respect of promissory notes for the payment of money to the bearer on demand; and all clauses, provisions, regulations, penalties, and forfeitures contained in any act or acts relating to the issuing of such promissory notes, or for securing the said stamp duties and composition respectively, or for preventing or punishing frauds or evasions in relation thereto, shall respectively be deemed to apply to all such bills, drafts, or notes as aforesaid, and to the stamp duties and composition payable upon or in respect thereof, anything in this act, or any other act or acts, to the contrary notwithstanding.

Exemption from receipt stamp duty of letters acknowledging receipt of bills, &c. repealed.

13. And whereas, under and by virtue of certain acts relating to stamp duties, letters by the general post acknowledging the safe arrival of any bills of exchange, promissory notes, or other securities for money are exempted from the stamp duty granted and imposed on receipts or discharges given for or upon the payment of money: Be it enacted, that the said exemption shall be and the same is hereby repealed.

Receipts for money paid to the Crown exempted from stamp duty.

14. And whereas, under and by virtue of the laws in force, the stamp duty on receipts given for or upon the payment of money to or for the use of her Majesty, her heirs, or successors, is made payable by the person requiring such receipt: Be it enacted, that all such receipts as last mentioned shall be and the same are hereby exempted from stamp duty.

The schedule to which this act refers.

Inland bill of exchange, draft, or order for the payment to the bearer, or to order, at any time otherwise than on demand, of any sum of money—

Not exceeding	£5	..	..	..	..	..	£0	0	1
Exceeding	5	and not exceeding	£10	..	..	..	0	0	2
"	10	"	25	..	..	..	0	0	3
"	25	"	50	..	..	..	0	0	6
"	50	"	75	..	..	..	0	0	9
"	75	"	100	..	..	..	0	1	0
"	100	"	200	..	..	..	0	2	0
"	200	"	300	..	..	..	0	3	0
"	300	"	400	..	..	..	0	4	0
"	400	"	500	..	..	..	0	5	0
"	500	"	750	..	..	..	0	7	6
"	750	"	1,000	..	..	..	0	10	0
"	1,000	"	1,500	..	..	..	0	15	0
"	1,500	"	2,000	..	..	..	1	0	0
"	2,000	"	3,000	..	..	..	1	10	0
"	3,000	"	4,000	..	..	..	2	0	0
"	4,000 and upwards	..	..	..	..	..	2	5	0

Foreign bill of exchange drawn in, but payable out of, the United Kingdom,
If drawn singly or otherwise than in a set of three or more, the same duty
as on an inland bill of the same amount and tenor.

If drawn in sets of three or more, for every bill of each set,

Where the sum payable thereby shall not exceed	£25	..	£0	0	1
And where it shall exceed £25 and not exceed	50	..	0	0	2
"	50	"	75	..	0 0 3
"	75	"	100	..	0 0 4
"	100	"	200	..	0 0 8
"	200	"	300	..	0 1 0
"	300	"	400	..	0 1 4
"	400	"	500	..	0 1 8
"	500	"	750	..	0 2 6
"	750	"	1,000	..	0 3 4
"	1,000	"	1,500	..	0 5 0
"	1,500	"	2,000	..	0 6 8
"	2,000	"	3,000	..	0 10 0
"	3,000	"	4,000	..	0 13 4
"	4,000 and upwards	..	..	..	0 15 0

Foreign bill of exchange drawn out of the United Kingdom, and payable within the United Kingdom, the same duty as on an inland bill of the same amount and tenor.

Foreign bill of exchange drawn out of the United Kingdom, and payable out of the United Kingdom, but indorsed or negotiated within the United Kingdom, the same duty as on a foreign bill drawn within the United Kingdom, and payable out of the United Kingdom.

Promissory note for the payment in any other manner than to the bearer on demand of any sum of money—

Not exceeding	£5	..	..	..	£0	0	1
Exceeding	£5 and not exceeding	£10	..	..	..	0	0 2
"	10	"	25	..	..	..	0 0 3
"	25	"	50	..	..	..	0 0 6
"	50	"	75	..	..	..	0 0 9
"	75	"	100	..	..	..	0 1 0

Promissory note for the payment, either to the bearer on demand or in any other manner than to the bearer on demand, of any sum of money—

Exceeding	£100 and not exceeding	£200	..	..	..	£0	2	0
"	200	"	300	..	..	..	0	3 0
"	300	"	400	..	..	..	0	4 0
"	400	"	500	..	..	..	0	5 0
"	500	"	750	..	..	..	0	7 6
"	750	"	1,000	..	..	..	0	10 0
"	1,000	"	1,500	..	..	..	0	15 0
"	1,500	"	2,000	..	..	..	1	0 0
"	2,000	"	3,000	..	..	..	1	10 0
"	3,000	"	4,000	..	..	..	2	0 0
"	4,000 and upwards	..	..	..	..	..	2	5 0

Legal Miscellany.

THE ROYAL BANK OF AUSTRALIA AND WINDING-UP ACTS, 1848 AND 1849—EX PARTE WALKER AND OTHERS.

Vice-Chancellors' Courts, April 22.—Before Vice-Chancellor Sir J. STUART.

JUDGMENT was given by his Honour in this case, in which the amount in dispute was nearly £300,000. The case came before the Court on

a motion on behalf of certain contributories in the above company, and its object was to discharge or vary a certificate or memorandum of the Master allowing certain claims of the North British Insurance Company, the Perth Banking Company, and others, as debts against the company, or to refer it back to the Master to review his decision, and receive further evidence on such claims. The company called the Royal Bank of Australia, was promoted by the late Benjamin Boyd, and was formed prior to the Joint-Stock Companies Registration Act, 7th and 8th of Victoria, chap. 110, by a deed of settlement dated the 3rd of August, 1840. By that deed it was provided that the capital should consist of £1,000,000 divided into 20,000 shares of £50. By the 6th clause the directors were empowered to carry on the business of the company in the city of London, or in such other cities, towns, or places within the United Kingdom, or within Her Majesty's colonies or settlements to which Her Majesty's subjects might lawfully trade, as to the directors might seem advisable. By the 9th clause it was declared that the trade or business of the company should be that of bankers, including the making and issuing of bank-notes and bills payable on demand, after sight, after date, or otherwise, and the making of loans and advances to customers, and including the discounting of inland or foreign bills of exchange or promissory notes payable at or after sight, after date, or on demand, and including the borrowing or taking up money at interest, on receipts, on inland or foreign bills of exchange or promissory notes, bonds, debentures, deposit receipts, or other obligations, as should from time to time be deemed expedient. It was also provided by the deed that the qualification for the office of director should be twenty shares, and that the first meeting of the company should be held on the last Wednesday in July, 1845, which was five years, wanting a few days, after the date of the deed of settlement. The total number of shares allotted otherwise than to the directors as hereinafter mentioned was 4,501, which were divided among a proprietary of about 150 persons. Upon these 4,501 shares the sum of £5 was paid prior to the execution of the deed, and a call of £5 afterwards made in January, 1841, was duly paid; but an additional call made in November, 1847, was not responded to. In the above 4,501 there were only included as taken and paid upon by the directors 20 shares each, being the necessary qualification for the office of a director; but, in addition to the 20 shares taken by Boyd, as the qualification for a director, he took 6,000 shares, upon which he never paid anything; but in the autumn of 1841 the directors took from him a promissory note for £60,000 in respect of the calls then due on his shares. The other nine directors, in addition to the 20 shares necessary to be held by each of them, agreed, when the company was formed, to take 2,400 shares among them, and promissory notes were given by each director to his co-directors for the payment of the calls, amounting to £10 per share, on the shares agreed to be taken by him. On the 31st of March, 1841, the paid-up capital of the company, independently of the notes given by the directors, amounted to £45,010, being £10 paid up on 4,501 shares, and up to the 31st of December, 1841, the items charged to preliminary expenses amounted to £12,177. It appeared that the directors, instead of raising the capital which they required for the purpose of commencing the business of the company by calling up the share capital, drew promissory notes, and then gave them to brokers and others to be disposed of, and by this means obtained capital with which to commence operations. Annexed to each of the notes, and on the same piece of paper, were coupons payable at successive periods of half-a-year, subsequent to the dates of the notes respectively, until the sums for which the notes were given should become payable, the sums mentioned in the coupons being half-a-year's interest on the amounts of the notes, and the coupons were signed by the same parties respectively who had signed the notes. In October, 1841, these in-

struments or notes had been issued to the amount of £174,000, and on the 31st of December, 1847, the amount of them then outstanding was £279,000. About the end of the year 1848 the company suspended payment, and on the 26th of March, 1850, an order to wind up its affairs, under the Joint-stock Winding-up Acts, was made. Benjamin Boyd, who was at first chairman of the company, went out to Australia at the latter end of 1841 on the affairs of the company. Prior to his leaving this country he addressed a letter, to his successor in the chair, which he said he should like adhered to, as nearly as possible, during his absence.

Letters from Boyd to the directors in this country were read with the view of showing that the moneys raised upon the promissory notes before mentioned, instead of being applied for the purposes for which the company was formed, were employed in trading in tallow, hides, oil, whalebone, and wool, and in farming operations, and evidence was gone into to show that the shareholders were not made acquainted with the operations in which the directors had employed the funds of the company, in contravention of the terms of the deed of settlement. The Master had allowed claims in respect of the notes or bills to the extent of nearly £300,000 on behalf of several creditors against the company, but the cases of only two of the creditors or note-holders (the North British Insurance Company and Mrs. Galloway) were discussed, as those of all the other creditors or note-holders fell within one or the other of these two. The right of one of the many note-holders of the Royal Bank of Australia had been tried at law in an action of *Merlas v. Sutherland*, and, upon a special case being submitted to the Court of Queen's Bench, that Court held that the note-holder was entitled to recover against the company in respect of the notes held by him. The Master, following that decision, had allowed claims on the part of note-holders against the company to the amount of nearly £300,000, and the present motion was by way of appeal from the Master's decision.

It was contended that the notes on the face of them were contracts attaching only to the directors personally; that, if they were contracts for the shareholders, it was beyond the authority delegated to the directors to enter into them; that if the directors were empowered by the language or terms of the deed to issue them, the power had been abused, for they were given when calls on a very small proportion only of the shares had been paid up, and that if the issue of the notes by the directors were *ultra vires* the deed, there had been no ratification of it by the shareholders, for it could not be considered as having been ratified, unless the representations by the directors to the shareholders were faithful, and this they had not been, inasmuch as the entries made in the accounts from time to time submitted to the shareholders by the directors were calculated to mislead the shareholders, these entries being of a nature to lead any one to suppose that the notes had been given for advances to customers in the ordinary course of banking business. The power to issue notes was a power to be exercised only on an emergency arising from pressure on the bank, and it was never intended that it should be exercised as a substitute for calling up the share capital.

The Vice-Chancellor, in delivering his judgment, said that he had heard nothing to impress on his mind that the Master had done wrong in allowing these claims as debts against the company. It appeared to him that the Court of Queen's Bench had, in fact, decided the more important question, and the Master seemed to have guided himself by the authority of that decision. The first objection to the Master's finding was, that even if the directors had power to bind the company, the notes were so framed as not to bind the company, but to make a contract only on the part of those directors individually who signed them. It had been said that the company was not named so as to bind it, and that it was not liable for the payment of the notes,

The words "We, directors, &c." (the Vice-Chancellor here read the form of one of the notes alluded to), seemed to him necessarily to include the company, for upon the construction of the words it was plain that they were made on behalf of the company, that was to say, on behalf of the shareholders of the company. But the more important question was as to the authority of the directors to bind the company as a body by those notes. The powers given by the 9th clause of the deed of settlement were certainly large enough to authorise the directors to borrow and take up money on such instruments. But it was submitted that the directors could not borrow until the whole of the capital had been paid up by the shareholders. That part of the case had been so satisfactorily disposed of by the judgment of the Court of Queen's Bench that it was not necessary for him to repeat what was then stated. The attempt to defeat the claims in question on the ground of mis-statement and concealment entirely failed. The important fact that £250,000 had been remitted to Australia, and that £334,794 was due by the company on deposit and collection bills, as stated in the report to the shareholders in July, 1845, and repeated in the reports of 1846 and 1847, seemed quite sufficient to show that the shareholders were acquainted with the fact that sums to a very large amount had been borrowed by the directors. On the whole, his opinion was, that the claims made by the North British Insurance Company and Mrs. Galloway had been properly allowed as debts against the company, and he should refuse the motion. The costs of all parties would come out of the estate.

Bank Meetings.

ROYAL BRITISH BANK.

THE half-yearly meeting of the Royal British Bank was held on the 4th of August, Mr. C. Walton in the chair, when the report and accounts (of which the following is an abstract) were unanimously adopted.

"The directors have to report that the business of the bank continues to increase. The number of accounts now open is 5,562, on which the operations during the past half-year have amounted to £19,089,864 11s. 8d., being a large addition to the amount for the preceding six months. The increase of the profits has not been in a corresponding ratio, because of the larger interest which has been paid, and the allowance to depositors for new shares at the same rate (6 per cent.) which has been reckoned for dividend. The directors have thought it right to put the depositors for new shares on the same footing in this respect as the holders of original shares, because at the last half-yearly meeting the directors believed, and gave the depositors reason to expect, that ere now the supplemental charter would have been completed, and the scrip which had been issued to the depositors converted into certificates for new shares; but, owing to some technical difficulties in framing the charter, the solution of which was referred by the authorities at the Board of Trade to the law officers of the crown, and the great pressure of business on the latter during the sitting of Parliament, they had not until the 21st ult. been able to meet in conference, as required by the Board of Trade, to answer the queries officially submitted to them. The directors have every reason to hope that the doubts which existed at the Board of Trade as to the power

of that department or of the crown to comply with the wishes of the directors—that the capital of the bank should be increased, and that too by gradual additions from time to time, as the business of the corporation may render advisable—will be satisfactorily removed. They therefore confidently expect that the details of the supplemental charter will be adjusted in the course of the current half-year in such a manner as will make it competent for them to exercise the reserved powers of the original charter for the gradual increase, from time to time, of the capital of the bank, up to even its *maximum* amount of £2,000,000 subscribed and £1,000,000 paid up. The directors, however, continue to think that any such large capital never can be necessary nor useful. But the right to resort to it, should the public remain of the hitherto prevalent opinion, that a large amount of paid-up capital is indispensable to successful joint-stock banking, will be an important privilege to the Royal British Bank. The progress of business at the new branches opened on the 2nd of January last in Pimlico, and on the 1st of July in the Borough, justifies the hope which induced the directors to select these localities for extending their operations, and they hope they will be still more fortunate in one which they propose opening in Piccadilly. The usual addition has been made this half-year to the reserved fund and to the clerks' fund, the latter of which is now £1,226 9s. 3d., and the former £12,416 5s. 8d. The dividend and the interest on the scrip for new shares, each at the rate of 6 per cent., free of income tax, will be payable on and after the 21st instant."

LIABILITIES.

<i>Dr.</i> —To commencing capital, as per charter, one-half paid up				£100,000	0	0
Amount due for deposits on account of new shares				£43,080	0	0
Deposits for fixed periods, and floating balances on drawing accounts, &c				805,285	2	2
				848,365	2	2
Amount due on the promissory notes or bills of the bank payable to order, and acceptances for customers' current				52,025	16	2
Clerks' fund				1,226	9	3
Reserved fund, as at 3rd February, 1854, as per report for fourth year				£10,766	6	11
Dividend				149	18	9
				£10,916	5	8
Unappropriated balance at ditto				3,142	15	5
Gross balance for the half-year ended 30th June, 1854, after providing for interest (£12,194 1s. 9d.) paid and due on deposits, promissory notes, and balances				11,847	12	6
				25,906	13	7
				£1,027,524	1	2

ASSETS.

Cr.—By uncalled-for stock	£50,000	0	0
Loans on convertible securities for short periods, advances on cash credit accounts, bills discounted, &c.	760,616	19	8
Balance of preliminary expenses, to be liquidated by yearly instalments	13,572	4	7
Property of the bank, in buildings and furniture, to be liquidated by yearly instalments	17,999	12	7
Investments in Government stocks	58,431	5	8
Cash in hand, and in the Bank of England	126,903	18	8
	<u>£1,027,524</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>

Profit and Loss Account.

Dr.—To expenditure of the bank for the half-year ended 30th June, 1854, at its chief office and four branches ..	£8,492	18	4
Amount voted to directors at annual meeting, February, 1854	2,000	0	0
Amount set apart for liquidation of preliminary expenses, 30th June, 1854	628	6	2
Dividend (free of income tax) for half-year ended 30th June, 1854, at 6 per cent. per annum	1,500	0	0
Reserve fund, as at 3rd Feb., 1854, as per balance sheet	£10,766	6	11
Dividend thereon (3½ per Cents.)	149	18	9
Set apart to be added to reserved fund, as at 30th June, 1854	1,500	0	0
	<u>12,416</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>8</u>
Reserved fund, as at last date			
Unappropriated balance carried to new account	869	3	5
		<u>13,285</u>	<u>9</u>
			<u>1</u>
			<u>£25,906</u>
			<u>13</u>
			<u>7</u>
Cr.—By gross balance and reserved fund, as above, brought down	25,906	13	0
By reserved fund and unappropriated balance, as above, brought down	£13,285	9	1

In the course of the discussion, it was stated that the directors, in raising further capital, will exercise great caution with respect to their arrangements. The dividend of 6 per cent. was then declared, and votes of thanks to the directors and manager concluded the proceedings.

LONDON AND COUNTY JOINT-STOCK BANK.

THE directors have declared a dividend for the past half-year, on the capital stock of the company, at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum (free from income tax). The following is a statement of the affairs of the bank for the half-year ending 30th June, 1854:—

Balance Sheet to 30th June, 1854.

<i>Dr.</i> —To capital	£399,625	0	0
Reserved fund	60,759	17	8
Customers' balances, &c. .. .	3,506,560	3	0
Net profit for the half-year, after payment of £19,996 7s. 7d. for interest to customers	24,849	17	7
	<u>£3,991,794</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>3</u>

<i>Cr.</i> —By cash in hand and at call, Government and other securities, discounted bills, &c. ..	£3,961,753	6	11
Bank premises, freehold and leasehold, trade fixtures, &c.	30,041	11	4
	<u>£3,991,794</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>3</u>

Profit and Loss Account.

<i>Dr.</i> —To half-year's dividend at 6 per cent. per annum	£11,903	18	0
Balance carried to profit and loss new account	12,945	19	7
	<u>£24,849</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>7</u>
<i>Cr.</i> —By net profit for the half-year	£24,849	17	7

UNION BANK OF AUSTRALIA.

THE annual meeting of the shareholders of this bank was held on the 17th of July, at the offices in Old Broad-street, Mr. J. J. Cummins in the chair, when the following report was unanimously adopted:—

“The annual accounts, which it is now the duty of the directors to present, afford abundant proof of the continued prosperity of the bank, and of the general increase in the business. Although it will be seen that the profits on the year's transactions exceed those of the preceding year by the sum of £23,385 7s. 2d., yet the exchange operations of the last six months of the year not having been as productive as those of the first, reported in January last, and the heavy deduction now to be made for income-tax, will not allow of so large an amount being applied to the purpose of dividend as that paid on the previous half-year. The communications received from Mr. M'Donald, the inspector, and from the manager, down to the 25th March last, are of the most satisfactory character. Commercial credit was well supported: the bank has sustained no loss by bad debts; while, on the other hand, the reserve held against possible loss has been increased by sums recovered out of securities formerly provided for as bad. It is, therefore, the pleasing duty of the directors to bear strong testimony to the zealous and prudent efforts of the inspector and managers in the discharge of their important duties, and to the valuable services rendered to the bank by the local directors at the respective branches. The inspector has re-opened the branch at Nelson, in New Zealand, and appointed Mr. A. C. M'Donald, late accountant at Wellington, the manager. A new branch has also been opened at Brisbane, Moreton Bay, to which Mr. J. S. Turner, for some years in the service of the bank at Adelaide and Sydney, has been appointed manager. There has likewise been an

agency opened at Port Adelaide, to which Mr. J. Vautin has been appointed, under the direction and control of the Adelaide branch. The directors proceeded to submit the statement of accounts, presenting an amount of profit for the year now reported on of £295,963 4s. 10d., out of which £164,000 was paid at Christmas, and £693 14s. 3d. carried to the rest of undivided profit, leaving £131,269 10s. 7d. profit on the half-year. This profit admits of £131,200 being appropriated for the purpose of dividend, which the directors have determined to apply as interest on the paid-up capital. This amount will furnish a dividend for the half-year, by way of interest, at the rate of 16 per cent., equal to 32 per cent. per annum, on the amount paid up in respect of each share in the capital of the company, payable in London, free of income-tax, on Tuesday, the 8th of August; and in the colonies, with the addition of the income-tax, as soon as the inspector shall fix after receipt of advices."

Statement of Liabilities and Assets at the Branches on the 31st of December, 1853, and at the London Office on the 30th of June, 1854.

LIABILITIES.					
Circulation	..	..	..	£660,673	0 0
Deposits	..	..	..	4,089,060	12 11
Bills payable and other liabilities	..	..	..	776,460	12 1
Balance of undivided profit	..	..	..	147,036	11 3
Reserve fund	..	..	£200,000	0 0	
Paid-up capital	..	..	820,000	0 0	
				1,020,000	0 0
				£6,693,230	16 3

STATEMENT OF PROFITS.					
Balance of undivided profit at June, 1853	..	..	..	£179,073	6 5
To which are now to be added the profits of the past year, ending at the branches 31st December, 1853, and at the London office, 30th June, 1854	..	..	..	295,963	4 10
				£475,036	11 3
Deduct amount of interest paid at Midsummer, 1853	..	..	£164,000	0 0	
Ditto at Christmas, 1853	..	..	164,000	0 0	
				328,000	0 0
Balance of undivided profit at this date	..	..	..	£147,036	11 3

ASSETS.					
Specie on hand and cash balances	..	..	..	£1,905,039	3 3
Bullion	..	..	..	311,583	5 1
				2,216,622	8 4
Bank premises and other property	..	..	..	32,500	0 0
Bills receivable, Government stock and other securities	..	..	..	4,244,108	7 11
Investment of reserve fund (3½ per Cents.)	..	..	..	200,000	0 0
				£6,693,230	16 3

RESERVE FUND.

As reported at June, 1853 £200,000 0 0

The Chairman said—Gentlemen, in meeting you with a dividend of £4 per share instead of £5 paid last year, my duty is not on this occasion quite so pleasing; but the circumstances will be pretty patent to all who happen to know the state of the exchanges, and the price of gold in the colonies. The actual price of gold during the last six months there has not only touched the standard value here, but has exceeded it; and the exchanges on bills only slowly met that advance, so that the exchange amount of the half-year shows it to be minus to the amount of over £30,000; but, on the other hand, the interest account, owing to the larger amount of funds in active operation in the colony, has relieved that minus sum by £20,000. The whole result of the account, comparing one year with another, is, that we have actually realised a larger amount of profit by £23,385. Then, again, if we look to the amount of profit of the year, you will find it to be £295,963 4s. 10d., and I believe no amount of profit yet made known to the public has at all approached that amount in the most prosperous bank, in proportion to the capital employed. Another large deduction from our profits, and one which we cannot complain of, is that of the income-tax, for which we are obliged to make a larger reserve. In giving you so large an amount of bonus, free of income-tax, you must bear in mind that the bank has now to meet the demand of the Chancellor of the Exchequer to an amount over £15,000, which is in itself a bonus to the proprietors of the bank. It is rather a singular fact, which may, perhaps, have been calculated by many here present, that we began at Christmas, 1848, to venture to pay a bonus over a £6 per cent. rate of interest; and I think it will be in the recollection of most of you that at that time I took the liberty of saying that the directors thought it prudent to declare such a rate of interest as they hoped to sustain, and they promised beyond that rate of interest, that whatever the profits arising out of each half-year might be, there should be a bonus divided among the proprietors. Subsequently we asked you to allow us to complete the reserved fund to £200,000, and we continued to redeem our pledge of dividing the profits in our hands every half-year as nearly as we could in the shape of bonus and interest, until we were advised to put all under the head of interest. All that time we have paid income-tax, and the result of this is, that since Christmas of the year 1848, we have actually paid to the proprietors £887,440—the capital of the bank being only £820,000. (Cheers.) We have put into the funds £200,000, as a permanent reserve in the hands of trustees; and we have paid £14,987 income-tax during this period. You will of course bear in mind that the income-tax becomes tremendously heavy upon us, owing to the large amount of dividends paid; and, in now making up our average return upon three years' profits, they are all on a greatly increased scale. That, gentlemen, is the result of the transactions on which we have paid a bonus, and we may congratulate you, though we cannot always come before you with 40 per cent. dividend. But, looking to our interests as more nearly affecting us in the colony, it is gratifying to us to be enabled to state that, notwithstanding rumours of distress and overstocked markets, we have gone through the year without loss on any one transaction; and our accounts presented to you this day show an accumulation of business which really ought to satisfy every one that our bank (I may say it without assumption) stands fast in the colony. Our deposits amount to £4,089,060. I need not, I think, go further than this. I ventured to say, when in this chair about two years ago, that I did expect that the expansion of our business would go far to compensate for the extraordinary profits on our gold transactions of the previous

year, and that prediction has been more than borne out by the statement of accounts now presented. I have offered these explanations to satisfy those who may feel any degree of disappointment at the diminution from the enormous dividends which they have formerly received; a circumstance, however, which will naturally arise from the fluctuating character of our business. We having told you that we would give you the profits of each half-year, you must make up your minds to take them as they naturally arise. It is out of the power of mortal to make them otherwise.

A Proprietor asked when the last valuation of their property in the colonies was made of bank premises and other property?

The Chairman stated that the sum taken in the account was not to be regarded as a valuation. He believed, if they gave a proximate valuation of the property, they might perhaps put it at £100,000 beyond the amount stated in the balance-sheet; the property had cost much more, but was reduced to a sum which it would be sure to fetch if put up to auction and brought to the hammer.

The dividend having been declared, a vote of thanks to the chairman and directors was moved and carried.

The Chairman said it was gratifying to himself and his co-directors to find that, though they had not given so good a dividend as last time, the proprietors gave expression to so much good feeling. It would always be their earnest desire to see the bank prosper to the same extent as it had done before.

CARLISLE CITY AND DISTRICT BANK.

THE directors have declared a dividend of 5 per cent. and a bonus of 2½ per cent. for the half-year ending 30th June, 1854, being equal to 15 per cent. per annum, both payable on 3rd August next. The profits during the half-year, after paying all expenses, amount to £5,247 12s. 2d., being at the rate of £18 1s. 11d. per cent. per annum on the paid-up capital of £58,000. The balance of £897 12s. 2d. remaining after providing for the dividend and bonus, has been carried to the auxiliary fund, thus increasing it to £1,257 4s. 9d. The guarantee fund remains complete at £19,333 6s. 8d.

CHARTERED BANK OF ASIA.

A MEETING of the shareholders of the Chartered Bank of Asia took place at the London Tavern, on the 21st of July, Mr. T. W. Henderson in the chair, when the report and statement of accounts were unanimously adopted.

The Chairman, previously to submitting these documents, explained the difficulties encountered in obtaining a charter, which were not finally obviated until the close of last year, although the project was organised in October, 1852. Meanwhile great economy has been exercised, and the deposits having been profitably employed, a payment in the shape of interest was proposed to be declared at the rate of 4 per cent. Negotiations are pending for an amalgamation with an Indian bank already in operation; and when the proposed terms shall have been arranged, another meeting will be convened, to submit them for consideration.

In answer to questions, the chairman stated that two or three months must elapse before the plan can be presented, and that the directors pledge themselves to act in accordance with the decision of a majority.

The report, after detailing the various negotiations for a charter, and the success that attended the exertions of the directors to procure one equal in its advantages to that possessed by the Oriental Bank, proceeds as follows:—

"During the long period occupied in these preliminary negotiations, the deliberations of the court have been constantly directed to the arrangements necessary towards fully organising the bank, and commencing business. The prospect of profitably employing the capital of the bank is, beyond question, as great, or even greater, now than when it was first instituted; but, unfortunately, since that period, the state of the money market has become very adverse, from which cause and other circumstances the directors have felt most reluctant to press upon the shareholders, by calling up the amount of capital prescribed by the charter to enable them to commence business.

"The directors have satisfaction in announcing that a negotiation is actually in progress, which, if prosecuted to a successful termination, will enable the Bank of Asia to commence business at once, with a capital adequate to the requirements of the charter, and without calling upon shareholders for a contribution to accomplish it. While the negotiation is still pending, the directors do not think it desirable, for many reasons, to lay the details of the proposed arrangement before the shareholders; but they may state in general terms that it involves the amalgamation of the capital of another bank, now in full and profitable operation, with that of the Bank of Asia, on such a basis as can scarcely fail to be of great mutual benefit. From the commencement of the undertaking the directors have attached great importance to the association with them in the bank of an influential local proprietary in India. During the earliest proceedings it was proposed to secure the means of fulfilling that object by a reserve of shares to the extent of one-fifth of the capital, to be issued in India; but the directors very soon became aware that this arrangement might become incompatible with the official requirements in respect of the charter. They subsequently came to the determination of subscribing for 4,000 shares (in addition to and separate from their personal holdings), in order to promote the interests and objects of the bank; and these shares have, from the period of issue, remained constantly and collectively under the control of the bank. Their continued possession by the bank is now of great importance in respect of the proposed admission of amalgamated capital, towards accomplishing which, on satisfactory terms, the disposal of this stock may prove essential. The directors therefore propose, with the concurrence of the shareholders, to continue to hold these shares for future appropriation for the purposes of the bank. The financial position of the company, the directors hope, will prove satisfactory to the shareholders. They have also to add that the management of the bank is conducted on a very economical scale, while its assets are so advantageously invested as to justify the expectation that the affairs of the company will be maintained in an equally satisfactory position. After full provision for the preliminary and other expenses, up to the 15th instant, a considerable balance remains in hand. As this amount will not be required for the current purposes of the bank, the directors feel bound to recommend the appropriation of a portion of it to the shareholders, by declaring a payment to them, in the shape of interest, of 4s. per share, being at the rate of £4 per cent. upon the amount of the deposits."

Statement of Receipts and Disbursements from September, 1852, to July, 15, 1854.

RECEIVED.				
Capital, being £5 deposit on 20,000 shares	..	..	£100,000	0 0
Profit—viz. Interest received	..	£4,577 11 2		
Separate account	..	4,464 0 0		
Fees on transfers	..	1 0 0		
			9,042 11 2	
			£109,042 11 2	

DISBURSED.

For preliminary and legal expenses (including fees on charter and deed of settlement), advertising, &c. . . .	£3,379	4	6
For salaries, stationery, rent, and office expenses, from September, 1852 . .	1,088	1	1
For office furniture	213	12	10
Total of disbursements			4,680 18 5
In hand 15th July, 1854			£104,361 12 9

ASSETS.

Securities	£101,500	0	0
Balances at bankers	2,854	9	1
Petty cash in office		7	3 8
			£104,361 12 9

Value of office furniture, say £200.

At the close of the meeting it was proposed to vote the directors £2,500 for past services, the balance from interest being sufficient to bear that amount. A resolution to this effect having been moved by Dr. Bird, and seconded in proper form,

Mr. Reed, Mr. Ayrton and Mr. Moore, while agreeing that the directors deserved remuneration, scarcely thought that the present was an opportune period for carrying out the proposal. When the question was finally decided of amalgamating, then the allowance to directors could be regularly arranged. The shareholders had full confidence in the board, the unanimous manner in which they had adopted the report, showing their opinion on that subject.

The Chairman requested Dr. Bird to withdraw the motion, as his colleagues and himself would decline to accept any remuneration unless it was unanimously agreed to.

A formal vote of confidence was then passed, and the next meeting, it is thought, will be in October.

BANK OF MADRAS.

Statement of the Affairs of the Bank of Madras, at 30th June, 1854.

ASSETS.

Government securities	Rs. 5,03,277	12	6
Cash credits on deposit of Government securities	5,61,835	6	5
Loans on deposit of ditto and bullion	19,54,495	0	0
Government bills discounted	31,591	15	4
Private ditto	9,49,063	4	0
Bank of Bengal	42,726	1	10
Bank of Bombay	8,820	0	9
Dead stock	26,509	3	0
Balance of cash on hand	36,48,262	12	10
	Rs. 77,26,581	8	8

LIABILITIES.

Bank notes and post bills in circulation	..	Rs. 16,62,714	0	8
Deposits	..	29,64,437	1	5
Proprietors' capital	..	30,00,000	0	0
Reserved fund and profits for half-year ended ..		99,430	6	7
		Rs. 77,26,581	8	8
Reserved fund	..	Rs. 22,651	0	1
Net profit for half-year	..	76,779	6	6
		Rs. 99,430	6	7
Dividend, at 5 per cent. per annum, on capital ..	Rs.	75,000	0	0
Balance of reserved fund	..	24,430	6	7
		Rs. 99,430	6	7

Communications.

To the Editor of the Bankers' Magazine.

VERBAL NOTICE OF DISHONOUR.

SIR,—Will you oblige me with your opinion on the following case:—

B owed W an amount, for which W drew on B, and got his acceptance discounted by S. When due, it was presented by S, at the bank where it was payable, early in the forenoon. B keeps no account there, and the money had not then been lodged to meet it. On his way home, S called on W, and informed him that the money was not yet there, but perhaps it might be in the afternoon. A week or two after, W is threatened with proceedings; but he contends that he is exonerated, by no notice having been given him.

Is a verbal notice in such a form sufficient? The following is the opinion of Mr. Justice Bayley, in his Treatise on Bills of Exchange. He says:—"Though no prescribed form be necessary for notice of the dishonour of a bill or note, it ought to import that the person to whom it is given is considered liable, and that payment from him is expected. And the notice ought to import that the bill or note has been dishonoured; a mere demand for payment, and threat of law proceedings in case of nonpayment, is not sufficient, especially if such demand be made on the day the bill or note becomes due."

Although he also says:—"A notice the day the bill or note becomes due is not too soon; for, though payment may still be made within the day, non-payment on presentment is dishonour."

J. A. S.

Chatham, 19th August, 1854.

[The leading authority on verbal notices is *Housego v. Cowne*, 2 Meeson and Welsby, 348; where a party sent by the holder of a dishonoured bill of exchange called at the drawer's house the day after it became due, and there

saw his wife, and told her that he had brought back the bill that had been dishonoured; she said that she knew nothing about it, but would tell her husband of it when he came home. The party then went away, not leaving any written notice; and it was decided that this was a sufficient notice.

In the case put by our correspondent, the conversation which passed seems to imply a further communication, and thereby creates a difficulty.]

PENNY DRAFT STAMPS.

SIR,—I will feel obliged by your informing me if the letter copied below requires a penny draft stamp.

“*Dublin, 11th August, 1854.*”

To the Manager, K. Bank.

(Over 15 miles from Dublin.)

Please transfer from my account to that of my son, Mr. A B C, one hundred pounds.

Your obedient servant,
B. A. C.”

This letter was sent by post to the manager.

I am, sir,
Your obedient servant,
H.

[We do not think the penny draft stamp is applicable to this instrument. If it requires a stamp, it is not the penny draft stamp: but we think, on the authority of *Norris v. Solomon*, 2 Moody & R., 266, that it does not require any stamp.]

CIRCULATION OF STAMPED DRAFTS.

SIR,—I have before me the 17th and 18th Vict., cap. 83, which is to come into operation after the 10th October next, and perceive that the 11th section permits the issue by bankers of drafts on penny stamps payable to order, but which require to be indorsed after leaving the banker's hands. Although this was permitted to all parties by the stamp act of last year, and acted upon by some bankers, by their issuing drafts printed similar to their bank notes and for the same denomination, still it was not generally taken advantage of, as it was supposed so doing would be infringing the *intention* of Sir Robert Peel's acts, limiting the circulation.

From the peculiar position of many of the banks in Great Britain and Ireland having their circulation far above the limited amount, the 11th section, above referred to, will be considered a great boon: for, while stating that all drafts payable to *bearer*, or payable to order *and not requiring to be indorsed* after leaving the bank, are to be considered as bank notes, and as such liable to stamp duties (sec. 12), it does not state that drafts on demand payable to order may not be issued; and, therefore, it appears to me that those bankers in England, Ireland and Scotland who are above their circulation limit, have nothing to do but to get drafts, payable to order on London, Dublin or Edinburgh, as the case may be, prepared, of the same denomination as their large notes and on the same sized paper; when their circulation requires to be reduced, these drafts could be issued, and such an amount kept out as would keep the circulation within its proper limit. In the large joint-stocks, some of which are often greatly above their limit, a circular from the head office, desiring the branches to issue such drafts in lieu of issuing £20, £50 or £100 notes, as the case may be, would at once have

the desired effect. Should such drafts issued by branch A upon the head office get into branch B, they might be reissued there by simply indorsing them specially to the party to whom they were paid.

Aug. 21, 1854.

I am, sir, your obedient servant,
H.

[We insert this letter, because it suggests an interesting point; but we do not concur in the views of our correspondent, and must refer our readers to the act itself, which appears in this number. Some of our correspondent's remarks seem scarcely serious.]

NEW STAMP ACT—BANKERS' DRAFTS.

SIR,—I have just read the new Act of Parliament, "To Amend the Laws relating to Stamp Duties," 17 & 18 Vict., cap. 83, and beg to ask, through your valuable columns, whether sec. 11 of that act does not prevent an *issuing branch* from drawing cheques on their London bankers with the penny on demand draft stamp either impressed or attached, when his circulation of bank notes is up to the limit authorised by 7 & 8 Vict., cap. 32. The act does not state cheques; but is not the term "cheque" synonymous with the word "draft."

At all events, it would appear that all drafts, bills or notes, with said stamp, must be subject to the restrictions of the former act regulating the issues of bank notes.

Yours obediently,

August 23, 1854.

A COUNTRY BANKER.

[The term draft is used in the act as synonymous with cheque. The clause in question seems to us to render the penny stamp inapplicable, for any useful purpose, to bankers.]

THE NEW STAMP ACT AND BANK NOTES.

A CORRESPONDENT asks:—

1. Are the stamps on bankers' notes likely to be affected, or reduced, by the new stamp act?

2. Are the *flash* notes, issued by a few English banks, in the form of drafts, bearing the penny stamp, on their London agents for sums of £5, strictly legal?

J.

[The new stamp act (which will be found in another part of this number) does not affect bank notes further than by expressly rendering all instruments issued by bankers liable to the statutes regulating bank notes properly so called; an enactment probably intended to stop the practice referred to in the second of the above questions.]

GUARANTEE FOR AN ACCOUNT CURRENT, OR FOR BILLS DISCOUNTED.

SIR,—In your July number you gave a short form of guarantee to be taken by a banker from a person who offers himself as security for an account current, and for bills discounted.

Will you favour me with your opinion in your next number, whether or not a guarantee of this description (the same in substance as the form you gave, but more lengthy) is affected by the Statutes of Limitations?

The document in question is dated 20th June, 1845, and goes on to say

that, "In consideration of your advancing money by discount of bills, payment of cheques, accepting bills or other securities, &c. &c. to A. B. at the time and from time to time, now I hereby agree to guarantee you the payment of all such advances to the extent of £— to your firm, or any future partner or partners of the said firm, &c."

The account is still running, and the amount for which the security was given has not been paid off, or any notice given by the surety that his guarantee would be discontinued.

I am, sir, your very obedient servant,

Derby, July 19, 1854.

A BANKER'S CLERK.

[We think the Statute of Limitations would only apply to such items of the account as are more than six years old, and that to them it does apply; but the guarantee itself does not expire by time until six years after transactions between the parties are discontinued. The statute runs from the time a cause of action arises. In the case put, the date of the guarantee has nothing to do with the question.—*Collinge v. Heywood*, 1 *Perry and D.*, 503.]

Notes of the Month.

SAVINGS BANKS FOR SEAMEN.—Attention has been called to a clause in the Merchant Shipping Bill, which, though it appears not to have attracted much public notice, will confer a very great benefit upon seamen. It is as follows:—"The Commissioners for the Reduction of the National Debt, or the Comptroller-General acting under them, may, on the application and recommendation of the Board of Trade, establish savings banks at such ports and places within the United Kingdom, either in the shipping-offices established in such ports or elsewhere, as may appear to be expedient, and may appoint treasurers to receive from or on account of seamen, or the wives and families of seamen, desirous to become depositors in such savings banks, deposits to an amount not exceeding £150 in the whole, under such regulations as may be prescribed by the said Commissioners or Comptroller-General; and such regulations shall be binding on all such treasurers and depositors, and the said Commissioners may remove such treasurers and appoint others in their place; and all the provisions of the acts now in force relating to savings banks, except so far as relates to the annual amount of deposit, shall apply to all savings banks which may be established under the authority of this act, and to such treasurers and depositors as aforesaid." Under this clause, a sailor will have the opportunity of investing his savings at a rate of interest of £3 0s. 10d. per cent. per annum on the security of the Government; and, as the Commissioners for the Reduction of the National Debt are to establish the savings bank and appoint the treasurer, they will, of course, be responsible to the depositor, who will run no risk of losing any part of his deposits from the inattention of the trustees or managers, or fraud of any of the officers; and it is to be hoped that ere long other depositors will be placed in the same situation, and we shall not then hear of such losses as have taken place in Dublin, Tralce, Rochdale, St. Helen's, Poole, the Isle of Wight, &c.

PERPETUAL INSURANCE.—In Philadelphia there is a system of perpetual insurance. In consideration of the payment of 2 per cent., the company insure for ever any house, the insurance expiring only when the house is burnt down. Of course the value of this plan depends on the permanent stability of the company.

CHAMBERS AND SON'S BANKRUPTCY.—A final dividend has been declared under the estate of Messrs. Chambers and Son, bankers, which, it is stated, will be about 2d. in the pound.

EXCHEQUER BILLS AND EXCHEQUER BONDS.—According to a Parliamentary return, just printed, the amount of ordinary Exchequer bills held by the Bank on the 21st July was £235,900, and of Exchequer bonds (redeemable in 1858) £603,800. Between the 10th of April and the 22nd of June last, the Bank sold Exchequer bills in the market to the amount of £1,514,100. The same return also shows that between the 2nd and 22nd June last the National Debt Commissioners sold stock to the amount of £617,626, at prices ranging from 91 to 94½, and that between the 15th and 27th of June they purchased £750,000 Exchequer bills.

DECIMAL CURRENCY.—The committee who have taken under their superintendence the agitation of this question have had two interviews with the government authorities; one with the Chancellor of the Exchequer—the other with Mr. Cardwell, but no progress has been made toward arriving at a definitive result.

A GOVERNMENT APPOINTMENT.—The proposed appointment of the Hon. Mr. Lawley, as governor of South Australia, has elicited the unpleasant fact, that he was not only addicted to horse-racing, but also to speculating in the funds. In his capacity of private secretary to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, it is alleged that he obtained information relative to the financial measures of the Government, and operated in Consols. His transactions—which, however, were unsuccessful—have resulted in large losses, and it is affirmed that the “differences” remain “unsettled.” After explanations of this kind in the House of Commons, it was not unreasonable to expect that the appointment would be, as in reality it has been, revoked.

ABSCONDING BANKRUPTS.—A curious anecdote is related in connection with one of the late failures, which shows the expedients resorted to for the purpose of avoiding the responsibilities of the law. It is stated that a partner in a metropolitan firm, brought into difficulties through a lapse in the credit, sought the advice of his solicitor on a point which he said he considered of great importance. He represented that the firm had trusted an individual who, involved through the ill success of his operations, would be compelled to become bankrupt; and as they feared he intended to abscond, desired to be informed on what route it would be necessary to place a vigilant *surveillance*. It was intimated that the party in question was well acquainted with the regulations of international law, and that neither America nor Australia would be likely to be sought as a refuge from his creditors. The professional gentleman, on due consideration, replied, that if such were the case, Prussia would in all probability prove the chosen locality, as the law of that kingdom did not recognise an interference with runaway debtors who took up their residence there. Satisfied with the information, the merchant thanked his adviser, and left; and not before many days elapsed he availed himself of the knowledge to make this Continental trip for his own convenience, much to the surprise and annoyance of those with whom he had had pecuniary transactions.

RUSSIAN SECURITIES BILL.—The bill has been passed rendering it a misdemeanour, punishable by fine or imprisonment, to deal in any Russian stocks created since the declaration of the war on the 29th of March last; exceptions, however, being made in the cases of inheritance, bankruptcy, or disposition of property in trust for creditors. The Russian paper currency is likewise exempt from its operation.

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE OF THE UNITED KINGDOM.—The bill for placing the gross income and expenditure of the United Kingdom under the more immediate view and control of Parliament, by causing the net revenue to be paid into the Exchequer, so that costs of collecting, instead of being deducted as heretofore, may be brought under the votes of the House of Commons, has just been printed. It provides, also, that the annual accounts shall be made up to the 31st of March, instead of the 5th of January, and that the quarterly accounts shall be to the end of March, June, September, and December, instead of the 5th of January, April, and July, and the 10th of October.

SUDDEN DEATH OF MR. R. SNOW.—On Tuesday, the 8th of August, Mr. Langham, deputy coroner for Westminster, held an inquest relative to the sudden death of Mr. Robert Snow, aged 49, late of the firm of Snow, Dean, Paul, Strahan, and Co., of the Strand, bankers. It appeared by the evidence that deceased, who had previously been subject to fits of an epileptic character, was found dead in his bedroom by a servant, on the previous Friday. The *post mortem* examination showed that death was occasioned by disease of the heart, and the jury returned a verdict accordingly.

EXPORTS OF SPECIE TO THE EAST.—According to a statement just published, the shipments of specie from England to India, China, Egypt, and Malta for the half-year just ended have been £2,373,014, of which £514,667 consisted of gold, and £1,858,347 of silver. The proportion of this taken out by the steamers of the Peninsular and Oriental Company was £2,308,381, while those of the General Screw Company carried £64,633. The sum included in the aggregate total as having been sent direct to China is £1,289,548, of which all but £86,156 was silver.

THE JAMAICA LOAN BILL.—A bill has been brought into the House of Commons for guaranteeing the Jamaica loan of £500,000, to be raised in Great Britain, with interest not exceeding 4 per cent. No act of the local Legislature is to be valid which shall repeal or reduce the import duties from which the interest and sinking fund for the repayment of this loan are to be provided, without a clause suspending the operation of the act until it shall be confirmed by Her Majesty.

INSTITUTE OF ACTUARIES.—The general meeting of the Institute of Actuaries took place on the 1st of July, Mr. Finlaison, president, in the chair.—The secretary read the report of the council on the progress of the Institute during the past year, also an abstract of the receipts and payments for the financial year ending the 30th of April last. The income of the year exhibited an increase over the average of the last five years, and the expenditure a decrease as compared with the average of the same period. In the course of the session, twenty-two new members had been elected, exclusive of honorary and corresponding members. M. Adolphe Quetelet's name had been added to the honorary list. The donations to the library continued to be on the usual liberal scale, and included a contribution by Professor De Morgan, of the manuscripts of the late Francis Baily's works. The following papers have been read during the session:—"On the Education of an Actuary," by Mr. H. W. Porter; "On the Mortality in the Eagle Insurance Company," by Mr. C. Jellicoe; "On Decimal Coinage," by Mr. W. T. Thomson; "On the Classification of Life Policies," by Mr. S. Brown; "On Deferred and Reversionary Annuities," by Mr. H. Ivory; "On Interest and Annuities," by Professor De Morgan; and "On the Sickness and Mortality in Friendly Societies," by Mr. H. Tomkins.

EXPORTATION OF BULLION.—A statement of the exports of bullion from London during the half-year ending the 30th ult., compiled by Messrs. Haggard and Pixley, shows the total to have been £15,331,960, of which £11,869,000 was gold, and the remainder silver. Of this aggregate of gold and silver, the proportions were to India, China, and Mauritius, £2,073,130 (the amount of silver to China being £1,669,470); to Australia and New Zealand, £29,400; to the continent, £12,187,820; to the Mediterranean, £778,660; to the West Indies, £197,250; to Brazil, £18,700; and to Africa, £47,000.

BANK MOVEMENTS.

A CALL of £2 10s. per share on the new shares of the South Australian Banking Company has been made payable on the 1st of September.

The shareholders of the Oriental Bank Corporation have, in special meeting, confirmed the resolution lately passed for increasing their capital.

Monetary Intelligence.

REVIEW OF THE MONEY MARKET FOR THE MONTH OF AUGUST, 1854.

THE prospects of the money market have at length assumed a more encouraging aspect. The reduction of the rate of discount by the Bank Directors, with the certainty of an abundant supply of food, has tended greatly to relieve the anxiety formerly manifested in relation to the future course of financial affairs. Although it is evident, from the reluctance shown by the bill brokers to reduce their terms for money on call, that no great diminution in the demand is expected between this and the close of the year, it is a satisfaction to find that there is, on the other hand, little apprehension of an increase. The important drawback is our war expenditure, which must be maintained at a high point while operations in the Black Sea and the Baltic are vigorously carried forward. Of success in this respect we have already received an earnest, in the capture of the Aland islands and the surrender of Bomarsund; and succeeding attacks, it is to be hoped, will turn out equally victorious. Supplies of specie are arriving from America and the West Indies, but Australian remittances have latterly fallen short, notwithstanding several vessels are overdue with a considerable quantity. Shipments of silver continue to be made to India and China, the state of the exchanges causing it to flow in that direction; but the export of gold to the continent has nearly ceased, the operation having become profitless. In consequence of this, the stock of the latter in the Bank of England is rising, and the weekly *Gazette* returns show an improvement in other features. The rates for first-class paper are $4\frac{1}{2}$ and $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., and for other descriptions from 5 to $5\frac{1}{2}$ according to character and date. The allowance of the bill brokers is 4 per cent., the alteration having been announced on the 23rd instant.

English securities have fluctuated about $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. during the month, but have since recovered the whole of the first depression. The prospects of the harvest, with the hope entertained that hostilities in the East may not be much longer protracted, have been the chief circumstances influencing business; and quotations, at the latest moment, are supported with firmness. Consols have varied between 92 and $94\frac{1}{2}$, and marked on the 28th inst. (August) $94\frac{1}{2}$.

Within the prescribed category of foreign securities, Turkish scrip may now be ranked, in which extensive transactions have taken place. No sooner was the loan announced, than bargains were concluded, in anticipation of the allotment, at 2 pm., and after the express terms were published, buyers presented themselves at $7\frac{1}{2}$. The subscription having been closed on the 17th, the letters were issued on the 21st, and the first instalment was paid on the 22nd of August. Intermediate variations in price followed. From $7\frac{1}{2}$ pm. a decline ensued, and sales were effected at $4\frac{1}{2}$. A question, raised in connection with the validity of the assignment of the Egyptian tribute, based on the asserted alienation of that revenue for a specific period, to the promoters of a scheme for reorganising the Bank of Constantinople, temporarily produced heaviness; but explanations, subsequently made, have shown the untenable position of the claimants, and the nearest quotation is now $5\frac{1}{2}$ premium. Spanish has not maintained the advance of last month. Compared with the highest point, the decline is about 3 per cent., apprehensions being entertained of the ultimate success of the Espartero administration. Mexican has been steady; Peruvian and Russian exhibit an improvement, but generally in these and other descriptions the amount of business has been unimportant.

The half-yearly meetings of the railway companies have produced unsatisfactory results. The dividends, with one or two exceptions, have decreased;

and as the working expenses press heavily upon revenue, there has been a partial fall in prices. A little recovery is now noticeable, but no great activity prevails in business.

There has been no special feature in the shares of the Australian Land and Banking Companies. Prices are scarcely so firm as at the close of July, but this is more attributable to the absence of activity, than to any other direct cause. Those of the metropolitan joint-stock banks have been steady, and, being regarded as a permanent investment, they are not frequently brought to market. Australian and Californian mining shares are a dead letter—the complete failure of the whole of the adventurers having rendered them unsaleable. Crystal Palace shares, from $\frac{1}{2}$ discount on £5 paid, have receded until they touched $1\frac{1}{2}$ discount, but purchases within the last few days have caused a slight favourable reaction.

Although the business in colonial produce has not been extensive, the rather easier state of the money market has induced holders to manifest greater firmness, and hence the quantity of goods forced to sale has diminished. Quotations are nevertheless still heavy, and a large decline in saltpetre has been attended with ruinous results in several quarters.

ENGLISH FUNDS.

		Price on July 29.	Highest.	Lowest.	Price on August 28.
Consols	..	92 $\frac{1}{4}$ to 92 $\frac{1}{2}$	94 $\frac{1}{2}$	92	94 $\frac{1}{2}$
Exchequer bills' average ..	..	par 4s. pm.	4s. pm.	2s. dis.	par to 2 pm.

FOREIGN STOCKS.

Brazilian	..	99 $\frac{3}{4}$	100 $\frac{3}{4}$	99 $\frac{1}{2}$	100 $\frac{1}{4}$
Buenos Ayres	..	55	55	55	55
Chilian	..	—	104 $\frac{1}{2}$	104	104
Dutch	..	60 $\frac{3}{4}$	62 $\frac{1}{2}$	60 $\frac{1}{2}$	62 $\frac{1}{2}$
Mexican	..	24 $\frac{1}{2}$	24 $\frac{3}{4}$	24 $\frac{1}{2}$	24 $\frac{1}{2}$
Peruvian, 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. ..	..	68	72	67 $\frac{1}{2}$	71 $\frac{1}{2}$
Portuguese, 4 per cent. ..	..	—	—	—	—
Russian	..	98	100 $\frac{1}{4}$	98	100
Spanish	..	37 $\frac{1}{4}$	40	36 $\frac{3}{4}$	37

RAILWAY SHARES.

Brighton	..	107 $\frac{1}{2}$ ex. div.	108 ex. div.	104	105
Caledonian	..	64 $\frac{1}{2}$	64 $\frac{1}{2}$	61 $\frac{1}{2}$	64
Eastern Counties	..	13 $\frac{1}{2}$	13 $\frac{1}{2}$	11 $\frac{1}{2}$	11 $\frac{3}{4}$
Great Northern	..	89 $\frac{1}{2}$	90 $\frac{1}{2}$	80 $\frac{1}{2}$	85
Great Western	..	79 $\frac{1}{2}$	79 $\frac{1}{2}$	69 $\frac{1}{2}$	73 $\frac{1}{2}$
London and North Western	..	107 $\frac{1}{4}$	108 $\frac{1}{4}$	100 ex. div.	102
Midland	..	68	68 $\frac{1}{2}$	66 $\frac{1}{2}$	69
Lancashire and Yorkshire ..	..	68	70	67 $\frac{1}{2}$	70
North Staffordshire	..	13 $\frac{1}{4}$ ex. div.	13 $\frac{1}{2}$	13 $\frac{1}{2}$ ex. div.	13 $\frac{3}{4}$
South Eastern	..	64 $\frac{3}{4}$	66	64 $\frac{1}{2}$	65 $\frac{1}{2}$
South Western	..	85 $\frac{1}{2}$	86	82 ex. div.	8 $\frac{1}{2}$
York, Newcastle and Berwick	..	75	76	73 $\frac{1}{2}$	76
York and North Midland ..	..	66	57 $\frac{1}{2}$	54 $\frac{1}{2}$	55 $\frac{1}{2}$
Northern of France	..	32 $\frac{3}{4}$	33 $\frac{1}{2}$	32 $\frac{1}{2}$	34
East Indian	..	—	22 $\frac{1}{2}$	22	22 $\frac{1}{2}$

STATE OF TRADE.

Operations in the manufacturing districts have been restricted ; and although complaints have not been made of unremunerative prices, there is an evident disposition to keep business for the present within narrow limits. The orders on account of foreign and colonial markets are less extensive, those especially from Australia having latterly diminished, local circumstances, together with the war generally checking shipments. Few further failures have occurred, and credit will in all probability be less interfered with, since the reduction in the rate of discount.

GRAIN TRADE.

The weather, with occasional exceptions, having been extremely propitious for the harvest, there has been an increased decline in the price of grain. Considerable progress has been made in the early districts, and a large quantity has been secured in good condition. The reports throughout the United Kingdom are very favourable, and the yield, it is stated, will exceed the estimate made a few weeks ago. With such prospects before us, it is not unreasonable to anticipate a further fall. Taking the range of quotations in Mark Lane, the late rapid and progressive declension, although productive of enormous loss, has been borne with great strength by the speculators. Only one or two weak operators have been compelled to succumb to the pressure, and their liabilities appear to be altogether inconsiderable. This state of things, however, is easily explained. A large amount of money has been made during the last twelve or eighteen months, which has enabled the leading firms to meet the sacrifice entailed by recent engagements, and has thus prevented the disasters which would have otherwise occurred. With regard to disease in the potato, there seems sufficient ground for believing that the crop will be partially, if not severely, affected. The hop plantations have been largely benefited by the warmth during the current month, but the previous unfavourable season has checked their usual development.

THE *Gazette* returns for England and Wales have been—

Week ended 1854.	Wheat. Qrs. sold.	Weekly Average. s. d.	Six Weeks' Average. s. d.	Duty. s. d.	Corresponding Six Weeks Last Year. s. d.
July 29.....	41,558 ..	69 8 ..	74 8 ..	1 0 ..	49 4
Aug. 5.....	31,184 ..	64 8 ..	72 6 ..	1 0 ..	50 6
" 12.....	35,860 ..	62 3 ..	69 11 ..	1 0 ..	51 6
" 19.....	45,925 ..	64 0 ..	67 10 ..	1 0 ..	52 0

The importations since the harvest of 1853 have been :—

	Wheat. Qrs.	Other Grain. Qrs.	Total. Qrs.
Fifty-two weeks ended 19th July	5,639,325	3,694,755	9,334,080
Four weeks ended 16th Aug.	200,159	251,513	451,672
	5,839,484	3,946,268	9,785,752
And the <i>weekly averages</i> have been—			
Fifty-two weeks ended 19th July	108,000	71,000	179,000
Four weeks ended 16th Aug.	50,000	62,000	112,000
	Less 58,000	9,000	67,000

EAST INDIA REMITTANCES.

AMOUNT OF BILLS DRAWN FOR.

From the 25th July to the 8th of August	Bengal	£109,283	10	8
	Madras	22,420	3	8
	Bombay ..	2,000	0	0
From the 8th to the 24th of August. ...	Bengal	91,748	12	6
	Madras	37,741	18	4
	Bombay ..	646	3	2
		£263,940	8	4

MONTHLY CHRONOLOGY.

July 31.—Intelligence of the total defeat of the Russians, on the 23rd, at Slobodzie, with a loss of 2,000 killed and 500 wounded.—Failures of Mr. Purdy and Mr. Wetherbe, of New York, announced.

August 1.—Retreat of the Russians from Wallachia.—New Cabinet at Madrid formed, headed by Marshal Espartero.

3.—Bank of England reduce the rate of discount from 5½ to 5 per cent.

12.—Parliament prorogued by the Queen in person.

14.—Bucharest occupied by 10,000 Turkish troops.—Failure of Mr. John Tucker, of Philadelphia.

16.—Terms of the new Turkish loan, issued by Sir J. L. Goldsmid and Mr. Horsley Palmer.

18.—Mr. Joseph Windle Cole, merchant, committed, from the Mansion House, to take his trial on charges of obtaining £17,000 and £30,000 on fictitious warrants of banded goods.

19.—News arrived of the surrender of Bomarsund to the allied troops and fleets, and the capture of 2,000 prisoners.

23.—Account of the defeat of the Turks, near Kars, by General Wrangel, with loss of 2,000 killed, and the capture of a number of prisoners and guns.—Failure of Messrs. Morpurgo and Co., of London; and also of Messrs. Werthemstein and Sons, of Vienna.

28.—Further sudden decline of 8s. per quarter in the price of corn at Mark Lane.

NOTICES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

WE hope to be enabled to work off all arrears in the course of two numbers. Several communications on hand shall have the requisite attention at the earliest possible moment. The translation from the French, of a paper on the precious metals, has been received, and will, in all probability, appear in our next issue. All letters, except they involve important questions, should be sent by the 20th of the month.

R. V. (Taunton).—The point referred to is under consideration.

J. S. (Langholm).—We know of no source except through individual communication. The other channel would have been accessible, but the institution has lately been wound up.

YOUNG STAGER.—*Gilbart's Practical Treatise on Banking* is the great authority. Other works, such as *Francis's History of the Bank of England*, *Fortune's Epitome of the Funds*, &c., may also be consulted with advantage.

THE ENGLISH FUNDS.—Daily Prices from 26th July, 1854, to 25th August, 1854, inclusive.

	20	27	28	29	31	1	2	3	4	5	7	8	9	10	11	12	14	15	16	17	18	19	21	22	23	24	25
Bank Stock (div. 9 per Ct.).	311	310	..	312	..	311	309	210	210	210	209	209	210	210	210	210	209	208	208	210	210	210	210	210	210	210	208
3 per Ct. Red. Anns.	92	92	92	92	92	92	92	92	92	92	92	92	92	92	92	92	92	92	92	92	92	92	92	92	92	92	92
3 per Ct. Consols Anns.	92	92	92	92	92	92	92	92	92	92	92	92	92	92	92	92	92	92	92	92	92	92	92	92	92	92	92
3 per Ct. Anns.	93	93	93	93	93	93	93	93	93	93	93	93	93	93	93	93	93	93	93	93	93	93	93	93	93	93	93
New 3 per cent.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
New 2 per cent.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Long Anns. Jan. 5, 1866	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41
Ditto 30 years, Oct. 10, 1859	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Ditto 30 years, Jan. 5, 1860	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
India Stock (div. 104 per cent.)	225	225	..	226	..	223	223	223	223	223	223	223	223	223	223	223	223	223	223	223	223	223	223	223	223	223	223
Ditto Bonds £1000 (div. 4 p.c.)	225	225	..	226	..	223	223	223	223	223	223	223	223	223	223	223	223	223	223	223	223	223	223	223	223	223	223
Ditto, under £500	225	225	..	226	..	223	223	223	223	223	223	223	223	223	223	223	223	223	223	223	223	223	223	223	223	223	223
South Sea Stock (div. 34 p.c.)	113	113	..	113	..	113	113	113	113	113	113	113	113	113	113	113	113	113	113	113	113	113	113	113	113	113	113
Bank Stock for ac. 17th Aug.	92	92	92	92	92	92	92	92	92	92	92	92	92	92	92	92	92	92	92	92	92	92	92	92	92	92	92
3 p. Ct. Cons. for ac. 17th Aug.	92	92	92	92	92	92	92	92	92	92	92	92	92	92	92	92	92	92	92	92	92	92	92	92	92	92	92
Ditto for account 13th Sept.	92	92	92	92	92	92	92	92	92	92	92	92	92	92	92	92	92	92	92	92	92	92	92	92	92	92	92
Ex. Bills £1000, 24d. per diem	92	92	92	92	92	92	92	92	92	92	92	92	92	92	92	92	92	92	92	92	92	92	92	92	92	92	92
Ditto. Small do.	92	92	92	92	92	92	92	92	92	92	92	92	92	92	92	92	92	92	92	92	92	92	92	92	92	92	92
Ditto. Advertised	92	92	92	92	92	92	92	92	92	92	92	92	92	92	92	92	92	92	92	92	92	92	92	92	92	92	92
Ditto Bonds scrip A 1858 3 p.c.	92	92	92	92	92	92	92	92	92	92	92	92	92	92	92	92	92	92	92	92	92	92	92	92	92	92	92
Ditto Scrip B 1859	92	92	92	92	92	92	92	92	92	92	92	92	92	92	92	92	92	92	92	92	92	92	92	92	92	92	92

JOINT-STOCK BANKS.

	London	Latest Prices
Australasia	£40 0	pd. £84
British North American	50	0
Commercial of London	100	20
Colonial	100	20
London and Westminster	100	20
London Joint Stock	100	20
Oriental Bank	25	0
Provincial of Ireland	25	0
National of Ireland	25	0
National Provincial of England	25	0
South Australian	25	0
Union of Australia	25	0
Union of London	25	0
London Chartered of Australia	25	0
English, Scottish, and Australian Chartered	25	0
Bank of India, China, and	20	14
Australia	20	0
New South Wales	20	0

FOREIGN STOCKS (28th August.)

Brazilian Bonds, 5 per Cent.	100
Chilian Bonds, 6 per Cent.	103
Danish 5 per Cent.	99
Mexican 3 per Cent.	34
Peruvian 4 per Cent.	71
Portuguese Bonds, 4 per Cent.	40
Russian Bonds, 1852, 5 per Cent. in £ Ster.	100
Ditto, 4 per cent.	85
Spanish Bonds, 3 per Cent.	37
Ditto, 3 per Cent. Deferred	18
(Dividends on the above payable in London.)	
Austrian 5 per Cent.	—
Belgian Bonds, 4 per Cent.	—
Dutch 2 per Cent.	—
Ditto 4 per Cent. Loan	61
French 4 per Cent., at Paris, Aug 26 1860. ac.	93
Ditto 3 per Cent., ditto	73 1/2

RAILWAY SHARES.

	Consign.	Paid up	Prices
		£	July 25.
Caledonian	..	..	63 1/2
Eastern Counties	..	..	100
Great Northern	..	..	13 1/2
Great Western	..	..	85
London and Blackwall	..	..	78 1/2
London and Brighton	..	..	8 1/2
North-West	..	..	105
South-West	..	..	102 1/2
Midland	..	..	92 1/2
North British	..	..	66 1/2
South-Eastern	..	..	34
York, Newcastle, & Berwick	..	..	64
York & North Midland	..	..	74
	..	..	55

The closing prices of the day are quoted.

Bank of England Weekly Returns.

Account, pursuant to the Act 7th and 8th of Victoria, cap. 32, for the Weeks ending as follows.

ISSUE DEPARTMENT.

	1854. July 22nd.	1854. July 29th.	1854. Aug. 5th.	1854. Aug. 12th.	1854. Aug. 19th.
Notes issued.....	£ 26,901,010	£ 26,771,780	£ 26,593,700	£ 26,833,350	£ 27,002,755
Government debt.....	11,015,100	11,015,100	11,015,100	11,015,100	11,015,100
Other securities	2,984,900	2,984,900	2,984,900	2,984,900	2,984,900
Gold coin and bullion	12,901,010	12,771,780	12,593,700	12,883,350	13,002,755
Silver bullion	—	—	—	—	—
	26,901,010	26,771,780	26,593,700	26,883,350	27,002,755

BANKING DEPARTMENT.

	1854. July 22nd.	1854. July 29th.	1854. Aug. 5th.	1854. Aug. 12th.	1854. Aug. 19th.
Proprietors' capital.....	£ 14,553,000	£ 14,553,000	£ 14,553,000	£ 14,553,000	£ 14,553,000
Reserve	3,328,532	3,335,739	3,429,748	3,438,416	3,450,375
Public deposits (including Ex- chequer, Savings' Banks, Com- missioners of National Debt, and Dividend Accounts)	2,058,785	2,302,361	2,347,590	2,090,274	2,891,195
Other deposits	11,609,399	11,124,260	10,609,668	10,153,899	10,380,618
Seven day and other bills	1,057,234	1,039,720	1,056,359	1,043,799	1,674,839
	32,606,950	32,355,080	31,996,365	32,179,388	33,350,027
Government securities (including Dead Weight Annuity)	11,810,383	11,775,383	11,369,383	10,680,493	11,030,673
Other securities	13,819,415	13,610,093	13,638,937	14,101,584	14,740,797
Notes.....	6,244,485	6,257,060	6,291,235	6,668,840	6,879,620
Gold and silver coin	732,667	712,544	705,810	728,471	698,537
	32,606,950	32,355,080	31,996,365	32,179,388	33,350,027

The Exchanges.

	July 21st.	July 28th.	Aug. 4th.	Aug. 11th.	Aug. 18th.
Amsterdam, short ..	11 15½	11 15½	11 18½	11 15½	11 16
Ditto 3 months..	11 17	11 17½	11 17½	11 17½	11 18
Rotterdam, ditto ..	11 17½	11 17½	11 17½	11 17½	11 18
Antwerp, ditto ..	25 25	25 27½	25 27½	25 30	25 32½
Brussels, ditto	25 25	25 27½	25 27½	25 30	25 32½
Hamburg, ditto	13 6	13 6½	13 7	13 7	13 7
Paris, short	25 0	25 2½	25 2½	25 5	25 5
Paris, 3 months	25 27½	25 30	25 30	25 32½	25 30
Marseilles, ditto	25 30	25 30	25 30	25 32½	25 32½
Frankfort, ditto	118½	118½	119	119	119
Vienna, ditto.....	12 28	12 32	12 34	12 34	11 58
Trieste, ditto.....	12 30	12 35	12 35	12 26	12 2
Petersburgh, ditto ..	36½	36	36	36½	36½
Madrid, ditto	49½	49½	49½	49½	49½
Cadiz, ditto	50	50½	50½	50½	50
Leghorn, ditto	30 52½	30 52½	30 55	30 55	30 55
Genoa, ditto	25 37½	25 37½	25 40	25 45	25 30
Naples, ditto.....	43	43½	43½	43½	43½
Palermo, ditto	127½	128	127½	128½	128½
Messina, ditto	127½	128	128	128½	128½
Lisbon, 60 days' date	53½	53½	53½	53½	53
Oporto, ditto	53½	53½	53½	53½	53½
Rio Janeiro, ditto ..	—	—	—	—	—

PRICES OF BULLION.

	Per Ounce.	Per Ounce.	Per Ounce.	Per Ounce.	Per Ounce.
Foreign Gold in Bars (Standard).....	£3 17 9	£3 17 9	£3 17 9	£3 17 9	£3 17 9
Mexican Dollars	0 5 1½	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 5 2	0 0 0
Silver in Bars (Stand.)	0 0 0	0 5 1½	0 5 1½	0 0 0	0 0 0

Bankers' Weekly Circulation Returns.

Pursuant to the Act 7 & 8 Victoria, c. 32; extracted from the LONDON GAZETTES.

PRIVATE BANKS.

NAME OF BANK.	Authorised Issue.	AVERAGE AMOUNT.			
		July 18.	July 22.	July 29.	Aug. 5.
	£	£	£	£	£
1 Andover Bank	17,751	12,184	12,806	13,954	13,228
2 Ashford Bank	11,849	10,720	11,141	10,502	11,250
3 Aylsham Bank	5,854	4,544	4,600	4,549	4,585
4 Aylesbury Old Bank	48,461	25,129	26,045	24,587	24,545
5 Baldock and Biggleswade Bank ...	37,223	24,281	23,701	23,201	22,785
6 Barnstable Bank	17,182	10,290	9,635	9,385	9,151
7 Basingstoke and Odiham Bank ...	24,730	16,383	18,123	19,671	19,051
8 Bedford Bank	34,218	32,006	31,270	29,649	29,355
9 Bewdley Bank	18,597	12,334	12,528	12,835	12,708
10 Bicester and Oxfordshire Bank ...	27,090	13,023	12,825	12,987	12,177
11 Birmingham Bank—Attwoods & Co.	23,695	22,416	23,454	23,023	24,550
12 Birmingham and Warwickshire Bk.	18,132	11,045	11,054	10,595	10,731
13 Blandford Bank	9,723	6,930	7,060	6,970	6,767
14 Boston Bank—Garfit and Co.	75,069	64,735	62,065	60,559	62,824
15 Boston Bank—Gee and Co.	15,161	13,433	12,992	12,867	13,689
16 Bridgewater Bank	10,028	4,995	5,421	5,046	4,925
17 Bristol Bank	48,277	42,410	41,109	41,180	39,411
18 Broseley and Bridgenorth Bank ...	26,717	16,829	17,282	17,108	16,738
19 Buckingham Bank	29,557	20,751	19,667	19,795	20,342
20 Bury and Suffolk Bank	82,362	63,410	62,414	63,403	62,454
21 Banbury Bank	43,457	30,104	29,751	28,814	28,051
22 Banbury Old Bank	55,153	23,180	22,424	22,037	21,071
23 Bath City Bank	4,572	2,870	3,107	3,167	2,934
24 Bedfordshire Leighton Buzzard Bk.	36,829	32,957	32,932	34,191	34,605
25 Birmingham Bk.—Taylor & Lloyds	38,816	37,041	38,990	36,399	34,005
26 Bradford Old Bank	12,676	11,839	13,052	13,098	12,557
27 Brecon Old Bank	68,271	62,214	64,250	63,955	62,576
28 Brighton Union Bank	33,794	25,081	24,056	22,306	22,639
29 Burlington and Driffield Bank	12,745	12,187	12,130	11,231	11,446
30 Bury St. Edmund's Bank	3,201	2,241	2,573	2,520	2,388
31 Cambridge Bk.—Mortlock & Co.	25,744	14,719	15,039	13,759	13,117
32 Cambridge and Cambridgeshire Bk.	49,916	39,003	37,815	37,699	37,910
33 Canterbury Bank	33,671	30,879	30,499	29,933	30,146
34 Carmarthen Bank	23,597	22,888	22,910	23,155	22,644
35 Chertsey Bank	3,436	3,081	3,278	3,048	2,945
36 Colchester Bank	25,082	16,673	15,824	15,477	15,929
37 Colchester and Essex Bank	48,704	29,058	27,815	26,563	26,938
38 Cornish Bank—Tweedy & Co. ...	49,869	48,913	48,356	48,020	48,378
39 Coventry Bank	12,045	6,492	6,742	7,169	7,371
40 City Bank, Exeter	21,527	19,723	20,275	20,780	20,649
41 Craven Bank—Alcocks & Co. ...	77,154	68,111	66,565	65,909	67,030
42 Cardiff Bank	7,001	6,380	6,834	7,033	6,905
43 Chepstow Old Bank	9,387	7,920	8,265	7,820	7,875
44 Derby Bank—Messrs. Evans	13,332	10,854	10,200	9,993	10,480
45 Derby Bank—Smith and Co.	41,304	31,560	30,486	29,367	31,187
46 Derby Old Bank	27,237	26,963	26,499	27,208	26,840
47 Devizes and Wiltshire Bank	20,674	8,590	8,526	8,620	8,575
48 Diss Bank	10,657	10,651	10,147	10,135	10,472
49 Doncaster Bank and Retford Bank	77,400	67,883	68,349	68,444	70,069
50 Darlington Bank	86,218	82,180	79,856	78,685	77,761
51 Devonport Bank	10,664	10,687	10,365	10,905	10,459
52 Dorchester Old Bank	48,807	45,443	46,474	47,296	46,862
53 East Cornwall Bk.—Robins & Co.	112,280	106,856	106,502	107,115	107,430
54 East Riding Bank—Bower & Co.	53,392	51,966	54,501	53,249	49,152
55 Essex Bk. & Bishops Stortford Bk.	69,637	42,241	41,447	40,410	41,110
56 Exeter Bank	37,894	27,503	27,782	27,187	26,457
57 Fakenham Bank	24,293	20,545	21,237	21,714	20,710

WEEKLY RETURNS OF BANKS OF ISSUE.

NAME OF BANK.	Authorised Issue.	AVERAGE AMOUNT.			
		July 15.	July 22.	July 29.	Aug. 5.
	£	£	£	£	£
58 Faringdon Bk. & Bk. of Wantage	8,977	5,866	6,018	5,625	5,320
59 Farnham Bank	14,102	12,077	12,036	12,214	11,487
60 Faversham Bank	6,681	5,700	6,107	6,356	6,453
61 Godalming Bank	6,322	5,344	4,939	4,799	4,966
62 Guildford Bank	14,524	6,425	5,554	4,858	5,069
63 Grantham Bank—Hardy and Co.	30,372	23,754	22,750	22,058	22,169
64 Hastings Old Bank	38,038	28,455	28,245	28,810	28,354
65 Hereford City and County Bank	22,364	15,258	15,129	14,719	14,505
66 Hertford and Ware Bank	23,635	14,512	13,914	13,511	12,855
67 Hull & Kingston-upon-Hull Bank	19,979	19,318	18,880	18,529	18,586
68 Huntingdon Town & County Bank	56,591	39,990	39,631	40,469	39,742
69 Harwich Bank	5,778	5,382	5,400	5,376	5,244
70 Hemel Hempstead Bank	23,842	23,866	23,330	23,247	22,440
71 Hertfordshire, Hitchin Bank	38,764	33,307	31,947	30,690	32,162
72 Hereford, Ross, & Archenfield Bk.	27,625	19,599	20,170	21,439	21,509
73 Ipswich Bank	21,901	17,851	17,606	17,759	16,558
74 Ipswich & Needham Market Bank	80,699	55,210	55,700	55,823	55,250
75 Kentish Bank—Mercer & Co.	19,895	13,433	13,135	13,556	13,664
76 Kington and Radnorshire Bank	26,050	21,836	22,388	22,203	21,966
77 Knighton Bank	9,090	8,930	9,432	9,081	8,284
78 Knaresborough Old Bank	21,825	19,668	18,773	18,343	17,858
79 Kendal Bank	44,663	36,960	36,043	35,840	35,714
80 Kettering Bank	9,192	8,566	8,690	8,090	8,340
81 Lane End Staffordshire Bank	5,624	5,185	5,310	5,370	5,370
82 Leeds Bank	53,357	55,236	52,509	51,338	53,735
83 Leeds Union Bank	37,459	37,405	36,952	37,235	37,967
84 Leicester Bank	32,322	25,690	24,485	24,389	24,563
85 Lewes Old Bank	44,836	27,752	27,506	26,624	25,826
86 Lichfield Bank	22,786	9,331	10,711	10,321	9,875
87 Lincoln Bank	100,342	82,276	79,838	79,496	76,213
88 Llandoverly Bank & Llandilo Bank	32,945	19,252	18,967	16,933	16,555
89 Loughborough Bank	7,359	6,776	6,483	6,434	6,517
90 Lymington Bank	5,038	4,333	4,237	4,044	3,943
91 Lynn Regis and Lincolnshire Bank	42,817	35,162	34,284	34,001	33,047
92 Lynn Regis and Norfolk Bank	13,917	12,378	11,585	11,191	10,231
93 Macclesfield Bank	15,760	14,628	14,508	14,587	14,086
94 Manningtree Bank	7,692	2,577	2,525	2,496	2,458
95 Merionethshire Bank	10,906	6,785	5,907	5,422	5,144
96 Miners' Bank	18,688	14,859	15,022	15,158	14,213
97 Monmouthshire Agricultural and Commercial Bank	29,335	27,692	27,433	26,144	28,347
98 Monmouth Old Bank	16,385	13,951	12,987	12,884	13,605
99 Newark Bank	28,788	20,058	18,975	19,189	19,498
100 Newark and Sleaford Bank	51,615	45,309	44,382	42,765	42,394
101 Newbury Bank	36,787	18,393	18,740	18,639	18,010
102 Newmarket Bank	23,095	16,883	16,006	15,910	15,191
103 Norwich Crown Bank and Norfolk and Suffolk Bank	49,671	48,728	47,931	45,860	45,137
104 Norwich and Norfolk Bank	75,372	71,006	68,908	66,346	64,717
105 Nottingham, Nottinghamshire	10,866	8,981	8,751	9,603	9,614
106 Nuneaton Bank	5,898	2,805	3,189	3,346	3,294
107 Naval Bank, Plymouth	27,321	23,800	24,025	23,389	23,150
108 New Sarum Bk.—Everett & Smith	15,659	11,299	12,013	11,287	11,381
109 Nottingham Bank	31,047	28,791	28,628	27,993	28,109
110 Oswestry Bank	18,471	10,200	9,584	8,704	8,555
111 Oxford Old Bank	34,391	33,435	32,349	31,609	31,735
112 Old Bank, Tonbridge	13,183	8,325	8,365	8,128	8,117
113 Oxfordshire Witney Bank	11,852	9,216	9,891	10,020	9,364
114 Pease's Old Bank, Hull	48,507	44,276	44,325	45,011	45,561
115 Penzance Bank	11,405	11,082	12,354	11,141	10,759
116 Peterborough Bank—Yorke & Co.	12,545	8,462	7,874	7,786	7,717

WEEKLY RETURNS OF BANKS OF ISSUE.

NAME OF BANK.	Authorised Issue.	AVERAGE AMOUNT.			
		July 15.	July 22.	July 29.	Aug. 5.
	£	£	£	£	£
117 Pembrokehire Bank	12,910	10,028	9,809	9,695	9,746
118 Reading Bank—Simmonds & Co.	37,519	27,450	27,281	27,015	26,670
119 Reading Bk.—Stephens & Blandy	43,271	26,575	26,915	27,183	26,264
120 Richmond Bank, Richmond	6,889	6,771	6,553	6,375	6,121
121 Rochdale Bank	5,590	5,316	5,383	5,300	5,268
122 Rochester, Chatham, & Strood Bk.	10,480	7,448	7,334	7,825	7,738
123 Royston Bank	16,393	12,025	11,949	11,633	11,613
124 Rugby Bank	17,250	10,325	10,214	10,112	9,965
125 Rye Bank	29,864	12,068	12,256	11,860	11,846
126 Ross Old Bank, Herefordshire ...	4,420	4,264	4,557	4,201	4,096
127 Saffron Walden & North Essex Bk.	47,646	23,569	23,584	23,006	22,760
128 Salop Bank	22,338	15,389	15,045	14,575	13,535
129 Scarborough Old Bank	24,813	22,751	23,476	22,252	22,492
130 Shrewsbury Old Bank	43,191	33,013	32,633	32,136	31,018
131 Sittingbourne and Milton Bank...	4,789	2,520	2,709	2,916	2,898
132 Southampton Town & County Bk.	18,589	15,440	15,745	16,074	15,689
133 Southwell Bank	14,744	10,915	11,000	10,815	10,724
134 Southampton and Hampshire Bk.	6,770	3,870	3,646	3,473	3,432
135 Stafford Old Bank	14,166	10,817	10,813	10,448	10,183
136 Stamford and Rutland Bank	31,858	23,350	23,530	22,900	22,975
137 Shrewsbury and Welsh Pool Bank	25,336	20,755	22,431	22,184	21,278
138 Taunton Bank	29,799	25,684	25,221	24,660	24,549
139 Tavistock Bank	13,421	4,362	4,085	4,080	4,473
140 Thornbury Bank	10,026	5,594	5,654	5,426	5,268
141 Tiverton and Devonshire Bank ...	13,470	9,198	9,030	8,750	8,585
142 Thrapstone and Kettering Bank...	11,559	10,697	11,189	11,206	11,074
143 Tring Bank and Chesham Bank...	13,531	11,709	12,188	12,838	12,380
144 Towcester Old Bank	10,801	8,116	7,741	7,860	8,111
145 Town and County of Poole Bk. and Ringwood and Poole Bk.	11,856	10,647	10,302	10,145	9,868
146 Union Bank, Cornwall	17,003	11,739	11,394	10,953	11,884
147 Uxbridge Old Bank	25,136	12,997	13,297	13,695	13,676
148 Wallingford Bank	17,064	7,700	7,792	7,507	7,566
149 Warwick and Warwickshire Bank	30,504	23,924	23,087	22,502	22,331
150 Wellington Bank, Somerset	6,528	3,347	3,535	3,566	4,203
151 West Riding Bank	46,158	46,534	46,126	44,050	46,063
152 Whitby Old Bank	14,258	13,480	13,552	13,429	12,670
153 Winchester, Alresford & Alton Bk.	25,892	18,240	18,340	20,088	21,339
154 Weymouth Old Bank	16,461	16,176	16,778	16,274	16,265
155 Wirksworth and Derbyshire Bk.	37,602	34,555	35,626	34,814	34,311
156 Wisbeach and Lincolnshire Bank	59,713	43,170	41,726	40,851	39,180
157 Wiveliscombe Bank	7,602	7,063	6,622	7,019	7,030
158 Wolverhampton Bk.—Goodricke	14,180	13,585	14,230	13,385	13,261
159 Worcester Bank	15,463	6,925	6,842	6,690	6,350
160 Worcester Old Bank	87,448	61,763	61,829	62,422	61,497
161 Worcesterhire Bank	14,109	9,480	8,961	8,747	8,831
162 Wolverham. Bk.—R. & W. Fryer	11,867	11,505	11,670	11,430	11,486
163 Yarmouth and Suffolk Bank	53,060	39,578	42,399	40,684	38,476
164 Yarmouth, Norfolk, & Suffolk Bk.	13,229	11,984	12,768	12,381	11,577
165 York Bank	46,387	42,710	42,096	41,489	40,984

JOINT STOCK BANKS.

1 Bank of Westmoreland	12,225	9,195	8,838	8,498	8,023
2 Barnsley Banking Company	9,563	9,336	9,057	9,007	9,014
3 Bradford Banking Company	49,292	50,870	51,123	47,933	46,741
4 Bilston District Banking Company	9,418	10,471	6,586	7,074	8,585
5 Bank of Whitehaven	32,681	28,404	28,665	28,633	29,433
6 Bradford Commercial Banking Co.	20,084	20,658	20,793	19,229	19,071
7 Burton, Uttoxeter, and Staffordshire Union Bank	60,701	48,109	44,533	43,786	42,795

WEEKLY RETURNS OF BANKS OF ISSUE.

NAME OF BANK.	Authorised Issue.	AVERAGE AMOUNT.			
		July 15.	July 22.	July 29.	Aug. 6.
8 Chesterfield & N. Derbysh. Bk. Co.	10,421	9,686	9,760	9,686	10,122
9 Cumberland Union Banking Co....	35,395	32,101	33,460	33,448	32,201
10 Cheltenham & Glo'stershire Bk. Co.	12,786	10,203	10,000	9,778	9,660
11 Coventry and Warwickshire Bk. Co.	28,734	21,250	21,299	21,901	21,899
12 Coventry Union Banking Company	16,251	13,623	14,195	14,309	13,523
13 County of Gloucester Banking Co.	144,352	103,975	103,608	101,160	98,271
14 Carlisle & Cumberland Banking Co.	25,610	24,240	23,865	23,970	24,802
15 Carlisle City and District Bank ...	19,972	18,654	18,958	19,095	19,245
16 Dudley & West Bromwich Bk. Co.	37,696	31,439	36,141	38,487	39,284
17 Derby and Derbyshire Banking Co.	20,093	19,543	20,225	19,610	19,169
18 Darlington Dist. Joint Stock Bk. Co.	26,134	21,666	21,115	21,546	20,485
19 East of England Bank	25,025	24,709	24,401	24,754	23,957
20 Gloucestershire Banking Company	155,920	139,569	139,555	138,319	134,239
21 Halifax Joint Stock Bank.....	18,534	17,152	16,905	17,007	16,792
22 Huddersfield Banking Company...	37,354	40,015	35,217	32,457	34,207
23 Hull Banking Company	29,333	26,003	25,275	23,896	22,757
24 Halifax Commercial Banking Co....	13,733	13,625	13,761	13,771	13,465
25 Halifax & Huddersfield Union Bk.	44,137	46,569	43,785	40,478	39,545
26 Helston Banking Company	1,503	1,454	1,504	1,512	1,376
27 Herefordshire Banking Company..	25,047	15,275	14,735	14,592	14,437
28 Knaresborough and Claro Bk. Co.	28,059	24,920	24,833	23,933	23,843
29 Kingsbridge Joint Stock Bank	3,952	3,221	3,242	3,185	3,325
30 Lancaster Banking Company	64,311	55,315	56,243	55,912	54,351
31 Leeds Banking Company	23,076	22,330	24,102	21,759	23,670
32 Leicestershire Banking Company...	86,060	65,974	63,435	62,175	60,592
33 Lincoln and Lindsey Banking Co..	51,620	47,519	45,427	45,355	45,865
34 Leamington Priors and Warwick- shire Bank	13,875	11,635	11,005	10,773	10,538
35 Ludlow and Tenbury Bank	10,215	9,342	10,258	9,790	9,495
36 Moore & Robinson's Notts. Bank...	35,813	30,614	31,053	29,507	28,646
37 Nottingham and Notts. Banking Co.	29,477	25,691	25,466	24,695	24,205
38 National Provincial Bk. of England	442,371	399,532	399,923	394,375	390,012
39 North Wilts Banking Company ...	63,939	36,971	37,154	37,302	36,592
40 Northamptonshire Union Bank ...	84,356	65,831	65,057	64,912	65,293
41 Northamptonshire Banking Co. ...	26,401	23,147	23,129	24,272	24,011
42 North and South Wales Bank	63,951	39,145	38,689	37,297	37,403
43 Parc's Leicestershire Banking Co..	59,300	43,961	43,433	41,465	41,685
44 Saddleworth Banking Company ...	8,122	2,605	2,537	2,295	2,095
45 Sheffield Banking Company.....	35,843	37,936	34,392	33,953	37,128
46 Stamford, Spalding & Boston Bk. Co.	55,721	46,145	46,024	46,445	45,000
47 Stuckey's Banking Company	356,976	324,839	322,963	320,588	317,858
48 Shropshire Banking Company.....	47,951	48,689	48,283	46,794	45,240
49 Stourbridge and Kidderminster Bk.	56,830	55,530	57,788	54,736	53,186
50 Sheffield and Hallamshire Bank ...	23,524	22,475	24,670	23,930	22,575
51 Sheffield & Rotherham Jt. Stock Bk.	52,496	53,251	53,863	50,711	48,677
52 Swaledale and Wensleydale Bank..	54,372	46,984	46,810	46,700	46,484
53 Storey and Thomas's Bank	9,714	9,352	9,536	9,200	10,012
54 Wolverhampton & Staffordsh. Bk..	35,378	36,675	36,009	34,030	32,794
55 Wakefield and Barnsley Union Bk.	14,604	11,006	11,742	11,972	11,870
56 Whitehaven Joint Stock Bank ...	31,916	28,278	27,301	28,047	28,067
57 Warwick and Leamington Bk. Co.	37,124	27,603	26,812	25,842	25,487
58 West of England and South Wales District Bank	83,535	78,328	77,022	75,658	77,683
59 Wilts & Dorset Banking Company	76,162	68,481	70,940	71,252	70,352
60 West Riding Union Banking Co....	34,029	32,384	31,550	32,074	31,470
61 Whitechurch and Ellesmere Bk. Co.	7,475	3,015	3,243	3,254	2,896
62 Worcester City and County Bk. Co.	6,848	5,403	5,435	5,285	4,975
63 York Union Banking Company ...	71,240	66,978	67,746	65,596	64,919
64 York City and County Banking Co.	94,695	87,561	87,830	87,036	86,174
65 Yorkshire Banking Company	123,532	123,770	119,662	114,910	111,746

SUMMARY OF WEEKLY RETURNS OF BANKS OF ISSUE.

	Fixed Issues.	July 15.	July 22.	July 29.	Aug. 5.
166 Private Banks.....	£4,607,455	£3,616,687	£3,594,716	£3,549,765	£3,520,802
65 Joint Stock Banks..	3,325,857	2,930,234	2,912,966	2,860,061	2,829,712
231 Totals	7,933,312	6,546,921	6,507,682	6,409,826	6,350,514

Average Weekly Circulation of these Banks for the month ending August 5th:—

Private Banks	£3,570,493
Joint-Stock Banks	2,883,243

Average Weekly Circulation of Private and Joint-Stock Banks ending as above £6,453,735

On a comparison of the above with the Returns for the month ending 8th July last, it shows:—

<i>A decrease in the notes of Private Banks, of</i>	<i>£53,702</i>
<i>A decrease in the notes of Joint-Stock Banks, of</i>	<i>47,349</i>

Total decrease on the month..... £100,951

And as compared with the month ending 6th August, 1853, it shows—

<i>A decrease in the notes of Private Banks, of</i>	<i>£142,030</i>
<i>A decrease in the notes of Joint-Stock Banks, of</i>	<i>110,753</i>

Total decrease, as compared with the same period of last year £252,783

The following is the comparative state of the circulation, as regards the fixed issues—

<i>The Private Banks are below their fixed issues.....</i>	<i>1,036,963</i>
<i>The Joint-Stock Banks are below their fixed issues.....</i>	<i>442,614</i>

Total BELOW the fixed issues £1,479,577

Irish and Scotch Circulation Returns.

Average Circulation, and Coin held by the IRISH and SCOTCH BANKS during the four weeks ending Saturday, the 5th day of August, 1854.

IRISH BANKS.

NAME OF BANK.	Authorised Circulation.	Average Circulation during Four Weeks, ending as above.			Average Amt. of Gold & Silver Coin held during Four Weeks ending as above.
		£5 and upwards.	Under £5.	Total.	
	£	£	£	£	£
Bank of Ireland.....	3,738,428	1,934,200	995,700	2,929,900	850,108
Provincial Bank of Ireland	927,667	321,474	481,062	802,536	262,525
Belfast Bank	281,611	55,716	310,133	365,849	213,744
Northern Bank	243,440	32,841	191,454	224,295	91,092
Ulster Bank	311,079	47,153	320,649	367,802	107,194
National Bank of Ireland...	761,757	382,481	475,603	858,084	280,369
Carriek-on-Suir Nat. Bank	24,084	9,360	10,891	20,251	4,694
Clonmel National Bank ...	66,428	23,187	22,163	45,350	12,147
TOTALS (Irish Banks) ...	6,354,494	2,806,412	2,807,655	5,614,067	1,821,873

SCOTCH BANKS.

Bank of Scotland	300,485	124,897	259,665	384,562	159,714
Boyal Bank of Scotland ...	183,000	65,261	112,814	178,075	46,806
British Linen Company	438,024	176,073	308,484	484,557	168,164
Commercial Bk. of Scotland	374,880	154,532	312,867	467,399	165,666
National Bank of Scotland..	297,024	111,390	228,559	339,949	82,796
Union Bank of Scotland and Banking Com. in Aberdeen	415,690	174,291	344,067	518,358	170,062
Edinburgh & Glasgow Bk...	136,657	57,918	89,448	147,366	40,922
Aberdeen Town and Co. Bk.	70,133	38,661	67,806	106,467	38,916
North of Scotland Bk. Co...	154,319	89,975	104,835	194,810	52,133
Dundee Banking Company	33,451	14,386	24,528	38,914	7,941
Eastern Bank of Scotland...	33,636	16,930	24,308	41,238	11,940
Western Bank of Scotland..	337,938	164,460	380,931	545,391	292,787
Clydesdale Banking Co. ...	104,028	52,467	104,689	157,156	77,385
City of Glasgow Bank	72,921	83,557	98,013	181,571	127,846
Caledonian Banking Co. ...	53,434	25,158	47,601	72,759	36,475
Perth Banking Company ...	38,656	14,815	32,704	47,519	15,097
Central Bank of Scotland...	42,933	19,391	37,094	56,485	19,666
TOTALS (Scotch Banks)...	3,087,209	1,384,162	2,578,413	3,962,576	1,514,316

CIRCULATION RETURNS.

SUMMARY OF IRISH & SCOTCH RETURNS TO AUGUST 5, 1854.

The Returns of Circulation of the Irish and Scotch Banks for the four weeks ending 5th August, when added together, give the following as the average weekly circulation of these banks during the past month, viz. :—

Average Circulation of the Irish Banks .. £5,614,067
Average Circulation of the Scotch Banks 3,962,576

Total Average Circulation of these Banks
for the past month £9,576,643

On comparing these amounts with the Returns for the month ending 8th July last, they show—

Decrease in the Circulation of Irish Banks £187,295
Decrease in the Circulation of Scotch Banks 87,985

Total decrease on the month £245,280

And as compared with the month ending August 6th, 1853, they show—

Increase in the Circulation of Irish Banks £454,634
Increase in the Circulation of Scotch Banks 215,791

Total increase on the year £670,425

The fixed issues of the Irish and Scotch Banks at the present time are given in the *Banking Almanac*, as follows:—

8 Banks in Ireland, allowed to issue... £6,354,494
18 Banks in Scotland, allowed to issue .. 3,087,309

26 Banks in all, allowed to issue..... £9,441,703

The following appears, therefore, to be the comparative state of the circulation:—

Irish Banks are below their fixed issue .. £746,427
Scotch Banks are above their fixed issue 879,367

Total above the fixed issue £134,940

The amounts of Gold and Silver held at the head offices of the several banks, during the past month, have been as follows:—

Gold and Silver held by the Irish Banks £1,821,573
Gold and Silver held by the Scotch Banks 1,514,516

Total of Gold and Silver Coin £3,336,189

Being an increase of £7,496 on the part of the Irish Banks, and a decrease of £77,074 on the part of the Scotch Banks, on the several amounts held by them during the preceding month.

CIRCULATION OF THE UNITED KINGDOM TO AUGUST 5, 1854.

The following is the state of the Note Circulation of the United Kingdom, for the month ending the 5th August, 1854.

Circulation of Notes for the Month ending August 5th, as compared with the previous month:

	July 8.	Aug. 5.	Increase.	Decrease.
Bank of England	£19,983,707	£20,539,169	£555,462	—
Private Banks	3,624,194	3,570,492	—	£53,702
Joint Stock Banks	2,930,492	2,683,243	—	47,249
Total in England	26,538,393	26,992,904	£555,462	100,951
Scotland	4,020,561	3,962,576	—	57,985
Ireland	8,801,362	8,614,067	—	187,295
United Kingdom	36,360,316	36,569,547	£555,462	346,231

The comparison of the month ending August 6th, 1853, with the month ending August 5th, 1854, shows a decrease in the Bank of England circulation of £3,058,390, a decrease in Private Banks of £142,030, and a decrease in Joint Stock Banks of £110,753; being a total decrease in England of £3,311,173; while in Scotland there is an increase of £215,791; and in Ireland an increase of £454,634. Thus showing that the month ending 5th August, as compared with the same period last year, presents a decrease of £3,311,173 in England, and a decrease of £2,640,748 in the United Kingdom.

The return of Bullion in the Bank of England, for the month ending August 5th, gives an aggregate amount in both departments of £13,560,346. On a comparison of this with the Return for the month ending July 8th, there appears to be a decrease of £243,693; and a decrease of £4,196,228 as compared with the same period last year.

The stock of specie held by the Banks in Scotland and Ireland during the month ending 5th August, was £3,336,189; being a decrease of £69,578 as compared with the return of the previous month, and an increase of £679,688 as compared with the corresponding period last year.

THE BANKERS' MAGAZINE,

AND

Journal of the Money Market.

OCTOBER, 1854.

POSITION AND PROSPECTS OF THE MONEY-MARKET.

THERE are some considerations connected with the position and prospects of the money-market, to which it may not be inopportune at this moment to draw attention. At the termination of an abundant harvest, with a general abandonment of speculation, and a steady influx of remittances, it is natural to look for a decline in the rate of discount. Usually these antecedents determine a favourable reaction, and under such circumstances it is frequently of a decided character. At present, however, exceptional causes are at work, which will, in all probability, delay any important change for some little time to come; and these it will be as well to refer to, in case the over sanguine should expect a considerable amelioration, and be doomed to disappointment.

The abundance of the harvest throughout the United Kingdom, the fine weather, to the close of September, having been all that could be desired to facilitate agricultural operations, and the immediate effect it has produced upon the price of bread, leave the fact unquestioned that we may anticipate moderate, if not cheap quotations, for one of the prime necessities of life. The expenditure for a large import of food will be saved, and instead of our purchasing in other markets, any surplus that we may be enabled to spare will readily be taken for foreign consumption. So far the conclusion is satisfactory, and there seems reason to believe that our situation in this respect has greatly improved. Trade also is in a much less excited condition than at any previous period of the last twelve or eighteen months, and transactions have in most quarters been brought within very

narrow limits—a feature which is favourable in relation to a diminished demand for accommodation, and which may lead to the presumption, that, with restricted competition, rates must inevitably fall. Although during the last seven or eight weeks, within which date the directors of the Bank of England have reduced their *minimum* charge for discount to 5 per cent., there have been occasions when the money-market has presented the appearance commonly indicating a decline, it has so suddenly rallied that predictions made with regard to what would be the next step of the Threadneedle Street authorities, have been completely at fault. Money which could be obtained in Lombard Street at $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. on one day, was $4\frac{3}{4}$ the next, and the demand then increasing, the terms of the Bank were again reached, and have since been generally supported.

Now, looking at these temporary mutations, it must be evident that the money-market is in a very sensitive position, and that circumstances of a complicated nature have influenced, and are likely to continue to influence its relations with financial and trading concerns. This will be clearly apparent if only a cursory view be taken of the existing political and commercial condition of the country, the harvest and its encouraging results forming, of course, an important ingredient therein.

The war with Russia—although our successes against the Czar evidence the futility of his resisting the combined forces of England and France—has unfortunately entailed an outlay which, however much it deserves commendation on the double ground of philanthropy, and the preservation of the balance of power in the East, cannot fail to maintain taxation at a high rate, and if peace shall be speedily secured, its effects will not be so easily counteracted. It is in conjunction with this part of the question that the advantages of an abundant harvest derive their principal consideration, for doubtful indeed would the situation of all classes have been had even a partial scarcity ensued. The infliction of a war expenditure, however rightful the cause, followed by a dearth of provisions and a necessary import at high prices, would have produced consequences the most disastrous to contemplate. The avoidance of a catastrophe so alarming in its character, should therefore create deep thankfulness and ameliorate the feeling of mortification roused by the reflection that but for the despotic sway of one individual, the full measure of this abundance would have been enjoyed.

Admitting, then, that the cost of the military and naval expeditions against the Emperor Nicholas, or rather that the burdens upon the public occasioned by them, will be in a measure relieved through a cheaper and more plentiful supply of domestic

provisions, we have still to ascertain the proportion of reduction and the prospects there are of any further favourable or unfavourable variations. No one will be prepared to deny that on the first result of the harvest being announced the rapid fall which took place in wheat foreshadowed a state of things calculated to inspire the greatest confidence, but that has since been partially checked by the purchases on account of Belgium and France, and the apprehensions expressed concerning the damage effected by drought in America. Making due allowance for any exaggeration by our transatlantic friends, with regard to the probable insufficiency of their crops, or for excessive caution on the part of our continental customers there is reason to assume that the average of grain will not be so low by some 5*s.* to 10*s.* per quarter, as was originally estimated; and hence the desirableness of circumspection.

But while acknowledging the important services contributed by an abundant harvest to a country suffering from a war expenditure, there are other considerations to be taken into account, as calculated to influence its prospective financial situation. Whenever hostilities may be entered upon between powerful nations, whose productions and manufactures constitute a valuable commercial intercourse, or when a trade with distant colonies or possessions may have been inflated beyond prudent limits, the collapse occasioned by the one or the other event—or, as it is in our own case, by both—must be attended with considerable sacrifices. Business, sound though it may be in the aggregate cannot withstand a protracted interruption such as has recently been witnessed, and escape wholly free from injury. Considering the great extension experienced within the last three years it is remarkable that not more mischief has occurred, and yet we have nearly passed through an Australian reaction and an American railway panic. With the latter, fortunately, Great Britain has not had so much to do as with the former, but the whole of the losses in that instance, it is feared, have not been finally reckoned.

Mercantile affairs generally are, however, not in the flourishing position to warrant a belief that the ordeal will be surmounted without damage, and the late failures in Manchester, Liverpool and London have testified to the devastation of credit and the annihilation of resources through paralysed trade, in quarters where great strength and wealth were expected to have existed. Aggravated by extraneous causes, such as an interruption to activity in China, and the heavy and depreciated state of the produce markets, there is little to give an impulse to recovery; for, notwithstanding the receipts of specie have increased, the absorption for loan, commercial and other purposes, prevents an accumulation which in ordinary times would create a beneficial

influence. In addition, it must further be remembered that we are steadily approaching the close of the year, when more than common vigilance is exercised amongst bankers and bill brokers in reference to the engagements they adopt or the paper they negotiate, especially after the hazardous era through which the community have struggled. The natural effect of all this must be to support the value of money, and although the payment of the October dividends is at hand, it will not be consistent to hope for low rates of accommodation or a marked subsidence in the demand. While entertaining an opinion that capital for mercantile uses will not for the present be permanently abundant, it is not, however, to be inferred that any advance is apprehended, unless unforeseen contingencies arise. These remarks have been dictated by a desire to repress any extravagant notions respecting cheap money in the existing complex position of affairs.

PAYMENT OF CUSTOMS DUTIES BY CHEQUES.

It is satisfactory to find that the Government are gradually adopting measures by which greater facilities can be extended to business, while, at the same time, assistance is afforded in economising the general circulation of the country. Next in importance to the movement made by the private bankers in admitting the joint-stock banks to the privileges of the clearing must be noticed the issue of a Treasury warrant simplifying payments at the Customs, which, as they have hitherto been effected only through the medium of bank notes or coin, have been attended with several disadvantages. At present the arrangement applies exclusively to the London departments, but it is understood that if it be found to work efficiently it will be speedily adapted to the requirements of the principal outports, such as Liverpool, Bristol, Glasgow, &c. For many years, it appears, the merchants of the metropolis have complained of the risk to which they have been exposed from the necessity of sending large amounts by the hands of clerks through the most crowded thoroughfares, at all hours of the day. Several methods to remedy the evil have been suggested, but they have hitherto all been overruled, although in some cases on imperfect grounds. The Treasury, however, have now resolved upon a system which is better than any previously recommended, and which is to come into operation on the 11th of October next.

Cheques on the City banks are to be received in payment crossed "Bank of England for Customs duties," and a clerk is to be sent from the Custom-house every hour from nine till three to get these marked by the several bankers, so that they may in each case be passed at the Bank of England from the bankers' account to the credit of the Customs. The Bank of England will sign a list of these receipts, and the Custom-house clerk will return with it forthwith, the whole proceeding occupying about an hour. Meanwhile the necessary entries of the

goods will be in progress, and no time will be lost, as they could scarcely in any instance be ready for delivery before the return of the clerk. By this plan it is pointed out the trader will escape all risk from the transmission of notes and coin, the Customs will be relieved of much labour in receiving, examining, and marking large amounts in bank-notes and in weighing gold, and also of the risk of forged notes or bad coin; private bankers will be spared the necessity of keeping so large an amount of notes on hand to meet the demands of their customers; and, finally, as these payments in London alone reach an average of about £13,000,000 a-year, a considerable economy in the use of bank-notes and coin will be effected. The following are the banking firms upon whom cheques will be received, and who have been selected only with reference to their proximity to the Bank of England and the Custom-house:—

“Bank of England; Barclay and Co.; Barnett, Hoare and Co.; Bosanquet and Co.; Brown, Janson and Co.; Commercial Bank; Cunliffes, Brookes and Co.; Currie and Co.; Dimsdale and Co.; Fuller and Co.; Glyn, Mills and Co.; Hanbury, Taylor and Co.; Hankey’s; Heywood and Co.; Jones, Lloyd and Co.; London and County Bank; London and Westminster Bank; London Joint-Stock Bank; Lubbock’s; Martin, Stone and Co.; Masterman’s; Prescott, Grote and Co.; Price, Marryatt and Co.; Roberts, Curtis and Co.; Rogers, Olding and Co.; Royal British Bank; Sapte, Muspratt and Co.; Smith, Payne and Co.; Spooner, Attwoods and Co.; Stevenson, Salt and Co.; Union Bank; Williams, Deacon and Co.; Willis, Perceival and Co.”

The introduction of the above plan will not prevent those from paying their duties in cash who may prefer doing so. A privilege granted in 1836, by which persons might take their notes and coin to the Bank of England, instead of to the Custom-house, but which from its involving much additional time and labour, while it very slightly reduced the risk, has never been much resorted to, will be continued till the end of the year, and then abolished, as by that time the new system will have come into full practice.

BANKRUPTCY ADMINISTRATION.

It must be generally admitted that in a country like our own, where mercantile enterprise and business occupation stimulate the energies not only of the middle and lower classes, but may also be found to have cemented the fortunes and insured the position of some of the higher and wealthiest branches of the aristocracy, every movement that may tend to facilitate the operation of the law connected with such proceedings ought to be received as a boon by the public at large, and, as such, be properly and thoroughly appreciated.

The alteration in the bankruptcy code of 1849, which, like most other changes in this department of commercial judicature, was founded upon the recommendation, and introduced through the instrumentality of Lord Brougham, while it possesses advan-

tages which may be considered preferable to the old legal enactments fails in many essential features to render its working palatable to those who are most interested in its administration, viz., the general body of creditors suffering from the fall of the unfortunate trader.

The practical test of the manner in which the law is found to operate is clearly traceable from the *Gazette* returns of individuals made bankrupt, and from the cases daily taken before the several commissioners. Without entering into the fearful abuses known to have existed in the ancient period of the Guild-hall sittings, when the old functionaries and their satellites, by fees, appropriations and other perquisites, very frequently absorbed the entire assets of an estate, to the positive exclusion of the creditors themselves; or when the third-rate officer, called a messenger, minted money through the lax attention of the commissioners, and the improvident scale of charges allowed for his services, it will be merely necessary to refer to the several changes which have taken place since the building in Basinghall Street has reared its head and made itself a name.

The reform of the old acts was followed by the constitution of the present court, the appointment of six commissioners, a host of official assignees, and other subordinate functionaries by which it was considered regularity would be insured in carrying out the arrangements so as to give unqualified satisfaction to the mercantile community, and greatly enhance the business of bankruptcy. The court so constituted came into operation, lasted some few years, and then it was discovered that either the commissioners were too well paid, or that they had too little to do; and forthwith a new species of proceeding was engrafted upon their former duties, and consequently they temporarily assumed the twofold character of commissioner of insolvents and bankrupts.

But this did not last long—the dignity of the court became concerned through the doubtful nature of the introduced practice, and from Basinghall Street to Portugal Street the poor insolvents were speedily retransferred. In the meanwhile other changes and alterations were brought about, all of which had the effect of attaining the one end invariably sought by those who have tampered with this branch of legislation—an increase of salaries and the fees of lawyers and officials. Strenuous as have been the exertions to get the position of creditors thoroughly recognised, all attempts hitherto seem to have proved unavailing.

But whence is the great source of the evil that is discovered so effectually to oppose and so completely to render inoperative a plan of procedure which, combining equity with law, would, if prudently administered, be attended with the most satisfactory

results? The answer is plain and simple, and can be comprised within three categorical heads.

First. The expensive and complicated machinery by which the court is regulated.

Second. The strength of the enactments which fail properly to classify traders, the penal clauses not sufficiently distinguishing between parties who may have adventured with every prospect of success from those who enter business solely with the intention of victimising creditors, and squandering the proceeds in an irresponsible manner.

Third. The entire absence of community of sentiment between the commissioners, relative to points of practice; the awarding of certificates, or the general arrangement of the business of the courts, from which much irregularity and inconvenience arise.

With regard to the first point, it is undeniable that a well-devised economy would do efficient service in rendering bankruptcy administration more popular. The report of the commission recently published, proves this in the most unmistakable manner. Already a step has been taken in the right direction, but to produce the necessary revolution, a further advance must be made. Even if the whole of the recommendations of the commissioners, as detailed in the Blue Book laid before Parliament in May, be adopted, it is questionable whether the work of excision will have been carried to its proper extent.

In the case of the metropolis, there can be no doubt that three commissioners would be ample to get through the bankruptcies that now make their appearance within the precincts of this jurisdiction; and two official assignees associated with each commissioner, with a salary of £1,000 or £1,200, instead of remuneration by a per centage, would provide all that is requisite to carry out, in a mercantile point of view, the realisation of assets. The royal commissioners have suggested a revision of the per centage allowed, and take the amount of remuneration at about the figures stated, but to settle the point, it would perhaps be the best plan to make the official assignees' allowance a fixed one, so that all may fare alike. The re-arrangement of the messengers' income is also highly desirable, but no half measures should be resorted to; and from the average of £1,000 per annum, which several of the London functionaries obtain, through the skilful management of charges, a reduction to £500 may be made, the presumed difficulties of their employment being easily obviated, if they are thoroughly analysed. By retrenchments such as these and others which are recommended in the report, creditors would soon perceive their dividends largely augment, and the property of bankrupts' estates would exhibit more favourable statistics.

With respect to the second point, the proposed abolition of the classification of certificates, and the amelioration of the penal clauses of the act of 1849, indicate that the opinions expressed are condemnatory of the existing system, which is therefore not likely to be much longer enforced. It has been stated, in one or two isolated instances, that service has been gained by decisions involving the granting of a first or second class certificate. The system might have been beneficial, if the circumstances and peculiar condition of each class of trading were more particularly defined, since that description of prudence and forethought which should guide a builder or bricklayer in his operations, cannot for one moment be thought to apply to the banker, merchant or wholesale trader, whose ramified interests probably spread over half of the civilised globe. The commissioners' recommendation of abandoning the classification of certificates, and allowing one of conformity, and another of approval, if in the latter case the bankrupt's conduct merits it, will meet the objection so generally entertained, and place the bankruptcy commissioners themselves in a less responsible position.

On the third question, the absence of uniformity of practice, every one who has paid the least attention to the business before the courts must be willing to admit the truth of the allegation. Seriously as this has been increased by the classification of certificates, it has all along prevailed greatly to the detriment of an efficient administration of the law; and the injury inflicted upon creditors, debtors and the estates in which they are interested, has been great. Who that has ever been called upon to visit the courts in Basinghall Street can fail to have noticed the anomalies presented in the various stages of bankruptcy—whether before the curt but clear-headed Mr. Commissioner Evans, the epigrammatic and scholarly Mr. Commissioner Fonblanque, the law-learned and painstaking Mr. Commissioner Holroyd, the tedious but practical Mr. Commissioner Fane, and the verbose and important Mr. Commissioner Goulburn. An improvement in this respect is greatly needed, and provision should be made to meet the difficulty in future. It is mainly in the uncertainty connected with bankruptcy administration, and the excessive expense of working out estates that have gradually, but surely, brought the court and its functionaries into commercial disrepute, and no amendment can be anticipated until fresh radical changes shall have been effected.

Although the present session of parliament has passed without the recommendations of the Royal Commissioners having been consolidated and brought under legislative consideration, the pressure of general business being urged as an excuse, the whole

question cannot be much longer delayed, unless the government are prepared to see the establishment in Basinghall Street a desolate tenancy and their well-paid *employés* rejoicing in complete sinecures.

STATISTICS OF EMIGRATION.

THERE is much useful information to be acquired from the investigation of the periodical returns made by the emigration commissioners. The efflux of labour and capital to Australia and America during the last few years, through the combined attractions of the gold discoveries, and improved demand for skill and industry, render them now particularly interesting, as showing the extent to which it has gone.

From the annual report just published, it appears that the total emigration in 1853, was 329,937, being 38,827 less than in 1852. There was a diminution of 26,480 to Australia, and 13,376 to the United States, the falling off being accounted for in the case of Australia, by the greater excitement regarding the gold discoveries prevalent during the summer and autumn of 1852; and in that of the United States by the departure of a smaller number of Irish, the aggregate emigration of the latter people throughout the year being estimated at 199,392 against 224,997 in 1852. The remittances from their relatives in America were, however, larger than in any previous year, the amount sent through the various banks, apart from private channels, being £1,439,000. With respect to the Australian emigration, the total from the United Kingdom to all the colonies, was 61,401, or about one-fourth of that of the United States. Annexed are the general figures:—

United States	230,885
Australia—	
New South Wales	10,673
Victoria	40,469
South Australia	6,883
Western Australia	965
Van Dieman's Land	991
New Zealand	1,420
	61,401
Canada, &c.	34,522
East Indies	928
Central and South America	833
West Indies	600
Cape of Good Hope	369
Western Africa	308
Mauritius	53
Hong Kong	37
Falkland Islands	1
	329,937

According to a supplementary statement, it also appears that the emigration during the first three months of the present year has been 49,756 persons, against 60,867 in the corresponding period of 1853, and 59,523 in that of 1852. There has been a continued diminution

in the departures to the United States, but in those to Australia, although there is a great falling off, as compared with the first quarter of last year, there is a considerable increase as compared with the first quarter of 1852. Of the total, 49,756 emigrants, 26,128 were Irish, 12,430 English, 2,965 Scotch, and 8,233 foreign or unspecified. This proportion of Irish is much smaller than in 1852 or 1853.

THE BANK OF FRANCE.

THE *Moniteur* publishes the following monthly debtor and creditor account of the Bank of France, made up to the 14th of September:—

DEBTOR.						F.	C.
Capital of the bank	..	..	..	..	..	91,250,000	0
Reserve of the bank	..	..	..	..	..	12,980,750	14
Reserve of the bank in landed property	..	..	..	..	..	4,000,000	0
Bank notes in circulation	..	..	..	..	..	465,268,100	0
Do. of the branch banks	..	..	..	..	..	141,186,650	0
Bank notes to order	..	..	..	..	..	5,950,780	50
Receipts payable at sight	..	..	..	..	..	11,622,535	0
Treasury account current, creditor	..	..	..	..	..	70,204,547	75
Sundry accounts current	..	..	..	..	..	114,568,751	59
Do. with the branch banks	..	..	..	..	..	34,690,064	0
Dividends payable	..	..	..	..	..	1,019,434	25
Discounts and sundry interests	..	..	..	..	..	2,949,563	85
Commission on deposits	..	..	..	..	..	14,774	10
Rediscounted during the last six months	..	..	..	..	..	916,188	68
Protested bills	..	..	..	..	..	170,160	82
Sundries	..	..	..	..	..	3,618,001	18

F.960,410,301 86

CREDITOR.						F.	C.
Cash in hand	..	..	..	..	..	328,669,903	60
Cash in the branch banks	..	..	..	..	..	169,684,295	0
Commercial bills overdue	..	..	..	..	..	396,003	75
Commercial bills discounted, but not yet due, of which 48,774,399f. 20c. were received from the branch banks	..	..	..	..	..	107,061,016	24
Do. in the branch banks	..	..	..	..	..	134,929,805	0
Advanced on deposit of bullion	..	..	..	..	..	568,300	0
Ditto by the branch banks	..	..	..	..	..	825,783	0
Advanced on French public securities	..	..	..	..	..	19,314,536	10
Do. by the branch banks	..	..	..	..	..	6,128,950	0
Advanced on railway securities	..	..	..	..	..	40,206,600	0
Do. by the branch banks	..	..	..	..	..	13,697,620	0
Advanced to the State on the treaty of June 30, 1848	..	..	..	..	..	65,000,000	0
Government stock reserved	..	..	..	..	..	10,000,000	0
Do. disposable	..	..	..	..	..	55,516,059	82
Hotel and furniture of the bank	..	..	..	..	..	4,000,000	0
Landed property of the branch banks	..	..	..	..	..	3,793,687	0
Expenses of the management of the bank	..	..	..	..	..	547,899	25
Sundries	..	..	..	..	..	69,843	10

F.960,410,301 86

Certified by the Governor of the Bank of France, Count d'ARROUT.

It appears from these returns that the metallic reserve has increased during the past month 32,122,206*l.* in Paris, and decreased 8,342,506*l.* in the branch banks. The discount accommodation has decreased both in Paris and in the departments; in the former 7,450,453*l.*, and in the latter 11,257,735*l.* The advances on public securities have increased in Paris 355,800*l.*, and in the departments 57,000*l.* The notes in circulation have decreased in Paris 3,466,200*l.*, and in the departments 37,075*l.* The treasury account current has increased 7,549,634*l.*; those of private individuals have increased 606,169*l.* in Paris, and 274,440*l.* in the departments.

THE RISE AND PROGRESS OF JOINT-STOCK BANKS.

THE extraordinary progress of the joint-stock banking system, since its first introduction, is well calculated to excite attention, and the separate reports published periodically show the success attending its development under prudent management. However satisfactory these statements may be to individual shareholders, they nevertheless fail to convey to the public at large an adequate impression of the prominent position acquired by these establishments, and therefore it is not surprising to find that an attempt has been made to bring together the general statistics, so far as they can be obtained, to illustrate in the aggregate the importance of the movement. A valuable paper, embracing much interesting information on this subject, has been laid before the British Association, at Liverpool; and having been favoured by the author with an amended copy of his manuscript, we have determined to publish it at length in the pages of the *Bankers' Magazine*. It will be noticed that the rise, progress and present condition of the joint-stock banking principle is not alone entered into, but that copious details are likewise furnished relative to the Bank of England and the Clearing House—points deserving of consideration in a question so intimately associated with the general banking interest. In presenting this paper to our readers, we have been obliged to divide it into two sections; first giving that portion which recounts the historical facts, and reserving the tables for a subsequent number. Although such an arrangement may appear to interfere with the proper position of the statistics, they have nevertheless been compiled with so much care that they speak for themselves, and require little elucidation or introductory remark.

The Chartered and Un-Chartered Joint-Stock Banks carrying on Business in the Metropolis. By JAMES KNIGHT, F.S.S.*

"I look upon the principle of joint-stock companies as one of the great discoveries of modern times. I regard them, when made responsible to public opinion, as the ground on which all successful enterprise must be founded. I say further, that if there be any one description of business to which the principle of a joint-stock company can be more applicable than another, it is, under due restrictions, the business of banking."—*Extract from the Speech of Sir Robert Peel, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, 1835.*

Although joint-stock banking has been so thoroughly tested, and its practice is so well understood, I apprehend that a collection of details connected

* The ability of the writer to treat of the subject is well attested by the experience he has acquired both in private and joint-stock banking establishments.

with its rise, progress and present condition will not be a subject unacceptable to the members of the British Association for the Advancement of Science.

I propose, therefore, to observe upon the early establishment of joint-stock banks, to consider their objects, to examine their resources, and endeavour to elucidate the progress they have made in London to the present time, from the data which it has been in my power to procure.

I.—INTRODUCTION OF JOINT-STOCK BANKS.

Joint-stock banks were doubtless called into existence by the confirmed success of the first joint-stock bank established in England, viz., the Bank of England. So jealous and exclusive, however, was the policy of the Bank of England, that, until the year 1826, no bank having more than six partners was permitted to be established within a radius of less than sixty-five miles from London, and then only on condition that such banks should not make the notes which they issued payable in London, nor draw bills on correspondents in London for a less amount than £50. This restriction, however, was removed in 1853.

THE BANK OF ENGLAND was established in the fifth and sixth years of William and Mary (A.D., 1694-95) in consideration of a loan to Government of £1,200,000, at an interest of nearly 8 per cent., and was incorporated by the name of the Governors and Company of the Bank of England. The Bank, as is well known, performs all the monetary functions or pecuniary transactions, so far as agency is concerned, of the national exchequer, such as receiving taxes, and paying the interest of the public debt at the financial quarters.

The basis upon which the Bank is permitted to issue notes and exercise its functions will be seen by a recapitulation of the features of the act of 1844, 7 and 8 Victoria, cap. 32, entitled, "An Act to regulate the Issue of Bank Notes, and for giving to the Governors and Company of the Bank of England certain privileges for a limited period." The act provides that from the 31st August, 1844, the business operations of the Bank shall be divided into two separate departments, viz., the "issue department" and the "banking department." In consideration of the debt due to the Bank from the Government, which amounts to £11,015,100, the Bank is allowed to issue notes to that extent, as also to a further amount of £2,984,900, making together £14,000,000, and beyond that margin notes can only be issued in proportion to the gold coin or gold or silver bullion in the coffers of the Bank from time to time. The Bank is bound to issue notes to any person demanding such in exchange for gold bullion at the fixed rate of £3 17s. 9d. per ounce.

In order to demonstrate the practical working of the "Bank Charter Act," I subjoin the form prescribed, and it is from these heads that the results contained in the following tables and abstracts have been compiled.

Issue Department.

	£	£	£	£
Notes issued				
Government debt				
Other securities				
Gold, coin and bullion				
Silver bullion				

Banking Department.

	£	£	£	£
Proprietors' capital				
Rest				
Public deposits (including Ex- chequer, savings' banks, Com- missioners of National Debt, and dividend accounts) ..				
Other deposits				
Seven-day and other bills ..				
Government securities (including dead weight annuity)				
Other securities				
Notes				
Gold and silver coin				

Table I exhibits the weekly average amounts of the several heads for each quarter. The most interesting feature in these returns will be the amount of "notes in circulation" and the "bullion" held by the Bank, as the basis or graduated scale by which, as has been already observed, the amount of "notes issued" is regulated.

Upon reference, it will be seen that the lowest amount of the weekly average of "notes in circulation," as compared with the "bullion" in hand, was, in the Michaelmas quarter of that disastrous year 1847, £18,469,447 against an amount of "bullion" of £8,725,945, at which period the "notes in reserve" were reduced to £4,272,883.

The aggregate average of "notes in circulation" for the four weeks at the end of the quarters of that year, was £76,617,404, and the aggregate amount of "bullion" for the same periods £29,060,636, and the average "reserve of notes" £18,458,616, whereas, in the succeeding year (1848), the aggregate average of the circulation for corresponding periods was reduced to £72,339,441, and the "bullion" increased to £52,786,871 or £13,726,235 over 1847—a fact evidently demonstrating that a serious blow had been inflicted upon the commercial resources of the country, which the increase of the precious metals in 1848, unaccompanied by the restoration of commercial confidence, had failed to counteract.

The highest amount of "notes in circulation" appears to have been in the years 1845, 1846, 1852 and 1853, thus in 1845 the "weekly" average of the four quarters was £20,722,439 against £14,617,639 in "bullion;" in 1846, £20,283,833 against "bullion" £14,163,111; in 1852, £21,856,228 against "bullion" £20,078,556; and in 1853, £22,612,317 against £17,004,539 in "bullion."

Table II shows the "weekly" averages in each year, and it will be seen that the "bullion" was reduced in 1847 to £9,765,159, and increased in 1852 to £20,078,558. The Abstracts A, B, and C subjoined, deduced from this Table exhibit a comparison of the "weekly averages" in each year, and the ratio of "bullion" to the "reserve notes," to the "notes in circulation," and to "deposits;" the ratio of "reserve" to "circulation," and of "deposits" to "circulation."

Table III gives the aggregate amount of the quarterly averages to June 30th, 1854, and is again indicative of the calamitous events of 1847; the lowest amount of "other deposits" or balances in the hands of the Bank

belonging to its customers, viz. : £112,043,908, and of the "bullion" in that year being £126,947,065, and that the highest amount of these was, in 1852, £169,208,437 and £261,021,251 respectively.

Table IV comprises the actual amounts and the increase or decrease therein in the last week in each year from 1844 to 30th June, 1854, and the character of these interesting results demands specific reference rather than incidental comment.

In order to render as complete as possible the progress and resources, and, at the same time, a résumé of the operations of the Bank of late years, I have availed myself of the return moved for by Mr. Hume, and ordered to be printed by the House of Commons (June, 30th, 1854); and Tables V, VI, VII distinguish the average rates of interest charged by the Bank from 1848 to 1854 (May) on "stock or public securities" which ranged from $1\frac{1}{2}$ in 1852, to 3 per cent in 1853, and the average for the whole period $2\frac{2}{3}$ per cent. On other "securities" the lowest rate was $2\frac{1}{4}$ in 1852, the highest being, in the present year 1854 (May), $5\frac{1}{10}$, giving an average of $3\frac{2}{3}$ for the whole period. The lowest rate charged on "discount of commercial paper" being $2\frac{1}{2}$ in 1850, and $3\frac{1}{4}$ in 1848, whilst the highest rate of "discount" was $5\frac{1}{12}$ in 1848, and $5\frac{1}{2}$ in 1854 (May), and for the whole period the average was $3\frac{1}{4}$.

In the years 1848 to May 1854, the total amount of "bills discounted" by the Bank was £79,052,220; the highest amount £25,182,547 occurring in 1853, and the lowest £4,519,348 in 1849, yielding an average for the whole period of £12,319,186.

On reference to Table VII will be seen the actual and total amounts advanced by the Bank for "temporary loans upon Exchequer bills," "bills of exchange," "India bonds," &c., in each quarter, and the rate of interest charged thereon. The lowest amounts (£4,333,479 and £4,589,387) in 1849 and in 1852, and the average in the years 1850, 1851, and 1852, being increased to £12,024,889, the total amount thus advanced being £51,722,103, and the average rate of interest for the whole period about $3\frac{1}{4}$ per cent.

II.—JOINT-STOCK BANKS IN LONDON.

There are six joint-stock banks carrying on business in the metropolis. They are—

1. The London and Westminster Bank.
2. The London Joint-Stock Bank.
3. The Union Bank of London.
4. The Commercial Bank of London.
5. The London and County Bank.
6. The Royal British Bank.

It may not be inappropriate, before detailing their progress, to offer a few remarks upon their distinctive features in their respective order.

THE LONDON AND WESTMINSTER BANK was the first joint-stock bank established in London, and set the example of offering accommodation to persons engaged in trade who had not the means of keeping large balances unemployed, and agreed to accept "current accounts" upon the payment of a commission proportioned to the transactions carried on, and to allow $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. interest upon "deposits" on sums from £10 to £1,000.

Sums, therefore, of £10 and upwards are received on "deposit," and interest is allowed if they remain only one month in the bank, and are at all times repayable without notice.

Temporary and permanent lodgments are received of sums of £1,000 and upwards, the rate of interest allowed being a matter of special agreement, and regulated by the time of withdrawal. The rate of interest is governed by the co-existent state of the money-market, and a few days' notice suffices previous

to withdrawal on the part of depositors. Mr. Hardcastle, in his work entitled "Banks and Bankers," published in 1842, states that "the most interesting feature in the history of this (the London and Westminster Bank) is, the contest it was engaged in with the Bank of England respecting the right to accept 'bills' drawn by its correspondents at a less date than six months;" and that, "notwithstanding the 'Bank Charter Act,' the directors resolved to try the question, and after a long litigation, after an action at law, a suit in equity, a reference to all the judges, and an appeal to the House of Lords, were defeated."

Table VIII shows the annual results and progress from 1834, the year in which it was established, to the 30th June, 1854.

THE LONDON JOINT-STOCK BANK (instituted in the year 1836) was the second joint-stock bank established in London. Mr. Gilbert, in his valuable work entitled "A Practical Treatise on Banking," informs us, that in the year 1836 "great excitement" prevailed in favour of the principle of joint-stock banking, not only in London, but in the provinces: that the shares of the bank were fixed at 60,000 of £50 each, representing a capital of £3,000,000; and that Mr. George Pollard, who had held for many years the most confidential position in the private bank of Messrs. Williams, Deacon and Co., was appointed to the arduous and no less responsible post of "general manager." This bank originally started with a new feature,—that of allowing to its customers interest upon "current accounts" at the rate of 2 per cent. on the minimum monthly balance.

In the year 1849 the rate of interest was reduced to 1 per cent., provided the minimum monthly balance on the average half-year should not fall below £200. Since that period the allowance of interest upon the balances of "current accounts" has been discontinued altogether.

Sums of money are received on "deposit account," at such rates of interest, and for such periods, as may be agreed upon, the state of the money-market ruling the per centage of interest allowed by the bank.

Table IX exhibits the resources and annual progress of the bank.

THE UNION BANK OF LONDON is next in succession. This bank was established in 1839. The capital consists of £3,000,000, divided into 60,000 shares of £50 each, and upon which £10 has been paid to the extent of £422,900, which represents £2,114,500 of the capital, or 42,290 shares. At the annual meeting, held in July last, the directors, in their report, intimated their determination to dispose of the remaining unallotted shares, by appropriating to the then existing proprietary two reserved or unallotted shares for every five issued to that date, at a fixed premium of £5 per share. This operation, after satisfying the proprietors, left 794 shares undisposed of, and, as will be seen from the subjoined extract from the report, enabled the directors to effect an object to which it appears they had long looked forward, and which met with the hearty concurrence of the proprietors.

"The appropriation of the reserved shares will leave 794 undisposed of, and affords an opportunity, which the directors have long desired, of expressing, in some substantial manner, that entire and cordial approbation which the proprietors have so frequently recorded of the eminent services of Mr. W. W. Scrimgeour, the general manager, as well as of other valuable officers of the company.

"It would be an agreeable duty to the directors to enlarge upon the manner in which Mr. Scrimgeour has discharged his arduous and most responsible duties, but the present position of the bank best attests his unwearied zeal and tried ability, which have so materially contributed to that result, and the directors feel assured of the hearty concurrence of the proprietors in the proposition to appropriate the residuary shares at par to Mr. Scrimgeour, as well

as to Mr. Barton the assistant manager, Mr. Clack the manager of the Regent Street branch, Mr. Wight the manager of the Charing Cross branch, and Mr. Walter Laurie the secretary, who have each in their several departments well entitled themselves to the respect and confidence of the proprietors."

It is gratifying to witness the liberality of the directors and proprietors as an acknowledgment of the arduous, zealous and faithful services rendered by the chief officer and his colleagues in administering the affairs of the bank.

The following statement will show the distribution of the shares as now appropriated.

"Capital, £3,000,000, in 60,000 shares of £50 each.

Distribution of Shares.

42,290 allotted and paid upon to June 30, 1854.

16,916 allotted to existing shareholders, in proportion of 2 for every 5 shares.

794 presented to the general manager, assistant manager, branch managers and secretary.

60,000

Appropriation of Shares.

42,290 allotted and £10 per share paid	£422,900
16,916 issued at £5 premium, including £10 paid up per share	253,740

£676,640

794 to officials at £10	7,940
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Paid-up capital	£684,580
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Of which £84,580, being the £5 premium on the above 16,916 shares, is added to the "reserve fund," thereby increasing that fund to £134,580	84,580
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And leaving the amount of paid-up capital at	£600,000
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The terms upon which the business of the bank is conducted are, as regards "current accounts," that if the minimum monthly balances do not, at the close of any one day, during the half years ending the 30th June and the 31st December respectively, fall below £500, interest at the rate of 2 per cent. is allowed upon the balance nearly approaching the minimum mentioned; but where the balance drops below £500, then interest at the rate of 1 per cent. is allowed, taking £200 as the monthly minimum; when the balance is below £200 no interest is allowed. The very large amount of interest allowed upon "deposits" and "current account" balances, viz., £107,739 for the year ending June 30, 1854, out of the profits, as specified in the accompanying table, is worthy of remark, as it distinguishes the operations of this bank in affording to the public an equivalent except, in the "Scotch banking system," almost unprecedented.

On "deposit accounts" opened with the bank the interest allowed is upon a graduated scale, determinable by the rates charged by the Bank of England for the discounting of first-class "bills of exchange," increasing and decreasing therewith, subject to a deduction of 1 per cent.; thus, if the Bank directors publish the rate of discount at 4 per cent. depositors receive 3 per cent., but 4 per cent. is the highest rate granted, 5 per cent. being settled as the maximum allowed.

It may be observed that the system of allowing a fair equivalent to depositors, and which is an important feature in the operations of all the London joint-stock banks, is an attractive source of investment, as it were, and possesses advantages which are, as yet, but imperfectly understood. A solicitor having £10,000 to put out at interest for a client awaiting the completion of mortgage deeds, would, if this plan were not presented by the joint-stock banks, probably invest the amount in Consols or Exchequer bills; but by placing the money upon "deposit account," as stated, a rate of interest is receivable exceeding, upon the average, the value of money allowed by the Government in the shape of "dividends," and as the principal may be withdrawn at a few days' notice, without chance of depreciation, and considering the fluctuating character of the public funds it will be apparent that the advantage is in favour of the depositors; the acquired and acknowledged position of the London joint-stock banks being such as to remove all doubt as to their stability.

THE COMMERCIAL BANK OF LONDON next demands attention. The capital, as will be seen by Table XII, was originally fixed at £2,000,000, in 20,000 shares of £1,000, but the shares were reduced to £100 in 1845. This bank does not allow interest upon "current accounts," but offers to its customers the advantage of transferring from the balances on such accounts any surplus to deposit accounts, upon which a given rate of interest is allowed, as may be agreed upon.

The rise and progress of this bank have been, especially of late years, very satisfactory, and will be found to reflect much credit upon the management.

THE LONDON AND COUNTY BANK was established under that title in the year 1839, and resulted from a bank called the "Surrey, Kent, and Sussex Bank," formed in 1836. This institution is remarkable for the number of its branches, and the influence which, since the accession of the present general manager, Mr. Luard, the bank has acquired by the judicious absorption of weak private banks in country towns. Its progress has been interesting in the extreme, and, as the prepared table will show, equally successful. From being in its infancy, a comparatively unimportant and struggling institution, it has attained a position which justifies well-founded expectations as to its continued progress and success.

The history of this bank exemplifies an act on the part of the chairman, Mr. John Sadleir, M.P., which must ever be gratefully remembered by those engaged in the service of the bank, that gentleman having presented about £4,000 as a donation towards the establishment of a "Provident and Superannuation Fund" for the officers. Interest is allowed upon "deposit" and "current accounts" upon the usual rates of the other joint-stock banks.

THE ROYAL BRITISH BANK is the most recently established and last of the series of London joint-stock banks. It commenced business in the latter part of the year 1849, and is the only bank formed since the passing of the "Act to regulate Joint-Stock Banks in England," 7 and 8 Vic., cap. 113 (5th September, 1844). In conformity with that act, it is created by charter or letters patent, granted by the Crown upon the recommendation of the Board of Trade. The act requires that the capital shall not be less than £100,000, that the amount of each share be at least £100, that all the shares be subscribed for, and that one half of each share be actually paid up before the company be permitted to commence business. The charter does not limit the liability of the shareholders. The commencing capital of this bank was the *minimum* fixed by the act, namely, £100,000, of which £50,000 has been paid up.

This latter sum has been increased by deposits on new shares, or rather

scrip certificates, amounting to £43,080, and the directors are seeking powers from the Board of Trade, under a *supplemental* charter, to increase gradually, from time to time, the original capital to the *maximum* amount of £2,000,000, and £1,000,000 paid up. From the recent half-yearly report of the directors (June 30th, 1854) they distinctly avow, however, that the requirements of the bank will never render an increase to that extent "necessary nor useful."

Interest is allowed upon "drawing accounts" at the rate of 1 per cent., if the balance do not, in any one day, drop below £100, and if not under £200, 2 per cent. per annum on the whole balance from day to day. "Deposits" are received and interest allowed at the present time at rates varying from 2 to 4 per cent. per annum, according to agreement between the bank and depositors. This bank is also established for carrying out in the metropolis the system commonly known as the "Scottish system," under the title of "cash credit accounts," and which is universally adopted by the Scotch banks. Parties respectably introduced, may open an account of this kind by lodging with the bank approved convertible securities, provided they are already customers of the bank, or in the guarantee of two or more sufficient sureties, at a charge of 5 per cent. per annum interest on the amounts actually advanced, and 1 per cent. commission half yearly on the total amount of the credit. Moneys may be paid at any time to a liquidation of the advances, and thus the balance and interest are reduced at the will and convenience of the customers.

The progress and resources of this bank will be found in Table XIII.

THE NATIONAL BANK OF IRELAND (whose office in London is situate in Old Broad Street), has recently, under powers originally contemplated in their deed of settlement, added to their ordinary provincial business that of joint-stock banking in London, as carried on by the joint-stock bank previously referred to. The resolution on the part of the directors having only been arrived at during the present half year does not admit of the publication of the progress the bank may have made under this head. Interest at the current rate of the day, and by special arrangement, is allowed upon sums placed upon deposit. Every other description of banking business is also transacted.

The six tables numbered IX to XIII exhibit an actual statement of the resources of the several "joint-stock banks" carrying on business in London to the present or rather the latest period of the publication of their transactions. It will, however, be interesting to ascertain the relative progress made by each bank so far as the data furnished will admit. Table XIV has been prepared to show the result of their operations at consecutive quinquennial periods from the date of their establishment. The first point of interest evinced in this return is that the highest amount of paid-up capital apportionable to each proprietor was, at the end of the first five years £940, the number of proprietors being 627, in the case of the "London Joint-Stock Bank," and the lowest £296, represented by 411 proprietors, in the "London and County Bank."

At the end of the first five years the ratio of "deposits" to "paid-up capital" in the London and County Bank was 818,574 per cent., and the ratio of "profits" to "paid-up capital" only 5,661 per cent., whilst the ratio of "profits" to "paid-up capital" in the case of the London Joint-Stock Bank was 10,349 per cent., and the ratio of "deposits" to "paid-up capital" 237,949 per cent. It should, however, be observed that £14,466 were added to the ordinary banking profits, from premiums realised by the London Joint-Stock Bank on the issue of new shares in the year 1841; and if this amount be deducted from the "profits," the ratio will be reduced to nearly that of the Union, London and Westminster, and Commercial Banks, viz., between 7 and 8 per cent.

The ratio of the "reserved fund" to the amount of paid-up capital appears, however, to have been greatly in favour of the London Joint-Stock Bank, being as much as nearly 14 per cent., whilst that of the Union Bank was little more than 2 per cent., of the London and Westminster $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. and the London and County and Commercial Banks $6\frac{1}{2}$ and $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. respectively.

The dividends declared by all of these banks was on the whole 5 per cent.

At the end of the second five years, or tenth year, we find that the "capital" paid up apportionable to each proprietor was again highest, although only in a trifling degree, in the case of the London Joint-Stock Bank, the average being £801, and the number of proprietors 749; whereas in the London and Westminster, the Union, the Commercial, and the London and County banks the amount so apportionable ranged from £555 to £797. As regards the "deposits" to "paid-up capital," the ratio per cent. appears to have been nearly equal in the cases of the Union and London and County banks, being in the former at an increase of 294 per cent., and in the latter a decrease of 141 per cent. over the first five years. But whilst the "capital" of the Union Bank remained the same as at the end of the first quinquennial period that of the London and County underwent an increase of nearly £80,000, a circumstance which evidently accounts for the reduced ratio of the latter. In the case of the London and Westminster, an increase of about 45 per cent. is perceptible, whilst the London Joint-Stock Bank exhibited an increase of 170 per cent., and that of the Commercial Bank showed a diminution of about 45 per cent. over that of the first five years.

The "profits" to "paid-up capital" seem to have kept pace in each instance at a corresponding ratio to that of the preceding quinquennial periods, except that in the case of the Commercial Bank the ratio under this head is increased by about 5 per cent.

The "reserved funds" as compared with "paid-up capital" were increased in the following order:—viz., the London and Westminster 5 per cent., the London Joint-Stock 7 per cent., that of the Union approaching 10 per cent., the London and County about 7 per cent., and the Commercial Bank nearly 11 per cent.

In estimating the foregoing results the ratio of "reserve" to "deposits" and likewise to "paid-up capital" forms, not only an important, but interesting feature, as demonstrating the changes which relatively occurred in the appropriation of a portion of the "profits" to the "reserved funds" at the end of the second five years.

These ratios appear to be as follows: "reserved fund" to "paid-up capital" 8.353 per cent., and to "deposits" 3.010 per cent. in the London and Westminster Bank, 20.019 and 4.911 per cent. in the London Joint-Stock Bank, and 11.823 and 1.763 per cent. in the Union Bank, 13.208 and 1.948 per cent. in the London and County, and 15.318 and 3.370 per cent. in the Commercial Bank respectively.

With regard to the ratios of the "dividends" to "paid-up capital" not only are the proportions equal to those of the preceding period, but increased in four instances by 1 per cent. and 2 per cent. in the case of the London Joint-Stock Bank.

In the third quinquennial period these ratios will be found, in most cases, to be fully sustained; whilst, on the other hand, the "dividends" declared by the London Joint-Stock, Union and London and County Banks exhibit a considerable increase, viz., in the first case exceeding 2 per cent.—9 per cent. in that of the Union Bank, and upwards of 3 per cent. in the London and County Bank; and at the end of the fourth quinquennial period of the London and Westminster Bank the dividends have been increased by about 4 per cent. over that of the third period and the "reserved fund" increased from £102,723 to £125,307, or £22,584 during the years 1840-1853.

By the aid of Table XV we are enabled to ascertain the increase made by

each bank at the quinquennial periods over the first, fifth and tenth years respectively.

At the first quinquennial period the increase of "deposits" was £1,207,475 in the London and Westminster, and that of the paid-up capital £415,025. A similar increase (£1,213,445) took place in the Union Bank, and that of the "deposits" £212,875. The increase in the "deposits" of the London Joint-Stock Bank was £809,087, and that of "paid-up capital" £372,140. The "profits" of the London and Westminster increased £40,095, and the Union £15,595. The London Joint-Stock, £49,393, but of this sum £27,214 were added from premiums on new shares issued during the first five years. The "reserved fund" of the London Joint-Stock was increased by £78,799, and the "dividends" $1\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.; those of the London and Westminster and Union being £19,634, and 3 per cent., and £8,531, but no increase occurred in the "dividend" of the latter.

At the end of the second five years the increase of "deposits" of the Union Bank exceeded those of the other banks by £412,648 over that of the London and Westminster, and £201,588 of the London Joint-Stock Bank. The "paid-up capital" of the London and Westminster increased £202,720, the "reserved fund," £45,983; and the "dividends," 1 per cent.

In the fifteenth year the "deposits" of the Union Bank were increased £4,195,860; the London and County, £2,062,400; whilst those of the London and Westminster and London Joint-Stock were increased £870,035 and £711,558 respectively. The "profits" of the Union show an increase of £56,015, but no addition was made to its "reserved fund" during any of the third five years. The "profits" of the London and County increased £39,694, and the "reserved fund," £19,275.

The following is the SUMMARY of the TOTAL INCREASE at the end of the first 15 years.

Name of Bank.	Paid-up Capital.	Deposits.	Profits.	Reserved Fund.
	£	£	£	£
London and Westminster ..	816,513	2,909,279	58,536	101,518
London Joint-Stock	382,440	2,563,474	*51,091	138,403
Union	212,875	6,653,722	68,114	50,000
London and County	329,500	3,065,855	49,433	43,524
	1,741,328	15,192,330	227,174	333,445
Average increase	435,332	3,798,082	56,793	83,361

The total increase of the Commercial Bank in 1854 over 1841 (a period of 14 years) was, in "paid-up capital" £220,000, in "deposits" £1,096,931, in "profits" £33,331, and "reserved fund" £63,077.

In order, however, to arrive at the actual condition and resources of the joint-stock banks carrying on business in the metropolis, Table XVI will be found to present the following *résumé* (including the Royal British Bank, which, from having been established only $4\frac{1}{2}$ years, is not included in Table XIV) of their operations to the latest date of publication, and by which it will be seen that the aggregate number of proprietors was 3,726, holding 186,084 shares, and representing "capital subscribed" £12,604,200, and "paid-up"

* Increased by £30,269 for premiums on new shares.

£2,767,035; that the aggregate "deposits" amount to £25,250,171, that the "dividends" declared ranged from 6 to 15 per cent.—three of the banks paying their proprietary 10 per cent., one 14 per cent., and one 15 per cent.

Table XVII is intended to illustrate an approximate analysis of the returns published to the most recent date.

Some of these returns are necessarily incomplete for the purpose, in consequence of the information being partially rendered, viz., to the 30th June only—the practice of the London and Westminster, the London Joint-Stock, and the Royal British Bank being, to make their annual financial statement on the 31st December. The ratio of "deposits" to "paid-up capital" was, on the 30th June last, 689·247 per cent. in the London and Westminster Bank, 972·984 per cent. in the London Joint-Stock, 1,662·681 per cent. in the Union, and 421·969 per cent. in the Commercial Bank. The London and County was, on 31st December last, 866·995. The Royal British Bank gives a ratio of 1,610·570 of "deposits" to "paid-up capital;" but reference to Table XIV will show that the "deposits" were increased in 1850, £1,465; in 1851, £2,668; in 1852, £5,204; and in 1853, £32,932 respectively, by "deposits" paid by the proprietors on account of new shares, which, if deducted from "deposits" and "current accounts," and transferred to "capital," would increase the latter paid up to upwards of £90,000, and affect the ratio accordingly. These payments constitute "deposits on scrip," which the directors have from time to time issued on account of the new shares, for which a supplemental charter from the Board of Trade has been applied for.

The results thus attained lead to the consideration of a most important item in the history of these banks, viz., the latest state of the "reserved funds." The "reserved fund" of the London and Westminster Bank was £125,307, and, at the last half-yearly meeting, the question of limitation of the "reserved fund" was discussed, when it was finally arranged that, except by a special vote of the proprietors, it should not be increased beyond £150,000.

The "reserved fund" of the London Joint-Stock Bank was, on the 30th June, 1854, £153,549.

The "reserved fund" of the Union Bank of London, although only £50,000 on 30th June last, will have been increased to £134,580 by the issue of the 16,916 new shares at £5 premium, thereby yielding a sum of £84,580, as specified in statement of distribution of shares already referred to.

Should the example of the London and Westminster Bank be followed by the other banks, the London Joint-Stock will have already attained the maximum of its "reserved fund," at a ratio of 25·591 to its "paid-up capital," and of 2·630 to its "deposits,"—the ratio in the London and Westminster being 12·531 per cent. and 1·818 per cent. respectively, or nearly one-half that of the London Joint-Stock Bank. Assuming the "reserved fund" of the Union Bank to be at the present moment increased to £134,580, the ratio to "paid-up capital" will be about 32 per cent., and to "deposits" about 2 per cent. If, in future years, the whole of the profits realised are divisible amongst the proprietors, the value of the stock must, from the past experience of the banks, be greatly enhanced from year to year.

On the 30th June last the prices of the shares of the joint-stock banks were—

London and Westminster	..	£40	..	£20 premium.
London Joint Stock	.. ..	25	..	15 do.
Union Bank	.. ..	28	..	18 do.
London and County	.. ..	32	..	12 do.
Commercial	.. ..	35	..	15 do.
Royal British	.. ..	Par.		

Bearing upon the question of future "profits," it may here be observed that the London joint-stock banks, with the exception of the "Royal British Bank," have been recently admitted to the important privileges hitherto exclusively afforded to the private bankers by the "clearing system," and, although it has been repeatedly and ably explained by Mr. Gilbart and other practical writers on banking, the era of admission of "the joint-stock banks" to the Clearing House deserves to be specially recorded; and, as some interesting and valuable improvements have been introduced of late in the working of the system, attention may, for a few moments, be invited to the subject.

The Clearing House is a building erected by the private bankers of the city of London for their common use, situated in Post Office Court, Lombard

A					
Debtors.	UNION.			Creditors.	
			Barclay		
			Barnett		
			Bosanquet		
			Brown		
			Commercial		
			County		
			Currie		
			Dimsdale		
			Fuller		
			Glyn		
			Hanbury		
			Hankey		
			Heywood		
			Joint		
			Jones		
			London and West		
			Lubbock		
			Martin		
			Masterman		
			Prescott		
			Price		
			Roberts		
			Rogers		
			Sapte		
			Smith		
			Spooner		
			Stevenson		
			Williams		
			Willis		
			C. H.		

Street; and, it is there that the committee of bankers meet for the purpose of considering, from time to time, measures for their mutual advantage, in connection with their business of banking. Of the committee, Mr. Masterman, M.P., is the leading and one of the most experienced members, and it is through the courtesy of that gentleman, that I am enabled to convey the recently introduced mode of settling the transactions of the "clearing."

It appears that the system of "clearing" between the bankers was introduced so far back as the year 1775.

Its objects are to economise labour and the circulation of Bank of England notes, as well as to simplify the settlement of the multifarious pecuniary transactions incidental to the business of "banking" in a large mercantile city like London, by concentrating in one place, and under one acknowledged plan, the duties of those engaged as representatives of the several banking houses. Each banking firm or joint-stock bank is represented by a clerk, whose duty consists in entering in a book, in columns arranged in alphabetical order, the drafts, bills of exchange, and cheques, which, having been previously charged out in clearing books at different banking houses, are sent to the Clearing House for presentation, so that the casting of the columns shows

B

THE CLEARING HOUSE.

Debtors.			JANUARY 1st, 1845.			Creditors.		
£	s.	d.				£	s.	d.
			Barclay ..	..		20,000	0	0
7,000	0	0	Barnett ..	..		..		
5,000	0	0	Bosanquet ..	..		..		
8,000	0	0	Brown ..	..		..		
..			Currie ..	..		7,000	0	0
..			Heywood ..	..		3,000	0	0
..			Dimsdale ..	..		4,000	0	0
11,000	0	0	Fuller ..	..		..		
17,000	0	0	Glyn ..	..		..		
..			Hanbury ..	..		9,000	0	0
..			Hankey ..	..		8,000	0	0
15,000	0	0	Jones ..	..		..		
..			Lubbock ..	..		12,000	0	0
..			Martin ..	..		6,000	0	0
..			Masterman ..	..		4,000	0	0
10,000	0	0	Prescott ..	..		..		
5,000	0	0	Price ..	..		..		
..			Robarts ..	..		18,000	0	0
13,000	0	0	Rogers ..	..		..		
..			Sapte ..	..		4,000	0	0
..			Smith ..	..		21,000	0	0
16,000	0	0	Spooner ..	..		..		
9,000	0	0	Stevenson ..	..		..		
..			Williams ..	..		70,000	0	0
69,998	10	0	Willis ..	..		..		
1	10	0	C. H. ..	..		..		
186,000	0	0				186,000	0	0

the amount of bills, cheques, &c., presented by each banking house to one another, during the day. The balances of the various accounts are ascertained at four p.m., and entered upon the list (marked A), a copy of which is annexed. Thus, if, at the close of the day's transactions, the comparison shows that the Union Bank of London have a larger claim against Barclay & Co. than Barclay & Co. against the Union Bank, the balance between the two is placed in the left hand column, headed "debtors," but if the contrary, Barclay & Co. become "creditors," and the balance is inserted in the right-hand column. A similar trial shows what balances are due either to or from the Union Bank with the other banking houses. When these balances are finally ascertained, the balance sheets are handed to the inspectors, and from these sheets the "general balance of the Clearing House" is made up. The lists (B and C) will show the mode by which the settlement is arrived at. The figures inserted are merely nominal, and only to demonstrate the *modus operandi*.

The "settlement" of the "clearing" was, until recently, effected by the means of bank notes (odd amounts under £50 remaining over till next day);

C

THE CLEARING HOUSE.

Debtors.			January 2nd, 1853.	Creditors.		
£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
16,000	0	0	Barclay	..		
24,000	0	0	Barnett	..		
..			Bosanquet	7,000	0	0
..			Brown	18,000	0	0
..			Currie	23,000	0	0
..			Heywood	4,000	0	0
8,000	0	0	Dimsdale	..		
7,000	0	0	Fuller	..		
..			Glyn	34,000	0	0
27,000	0	0	Hanbury	..		
16,000	0	0	Hankey	..		
..			Jones	42,000	0	0
..			Lubbock	30,000	0	0
60,000	0	0	Martin	..		
18,000	0	0	Masterman	..		
..			Prescott	12,000	0	0
..			Price	6,000	0	0
31,000	0	0	Robarts	..		
..			Rogers	1,000	0	0
..			Sapte	20,000	0	0
9,000	0	0	Smith	..		
..			Spooner	11,000	0	0
..			Stevenson	8,000	0	0
47,000	0	0	Williams	..		
1	10	0	Willis	47,000	0	0
..			C. H.	..		
..			House balance ac.	1	10	0
263,001	10	0		263,001	10	0

but, by the system now in practice, no money whatever, in the shape of "notes," is required, the object being accomplished with equal effect, and a complete relief from risk of robbery to the clerks, whose duty it was, under the old plan, to bring down the bank notes, not unfrequently to very large amounts, to settle the day's clearing.

Each banker and joint-stock bank has an account with the Bank of England for the purpose of keeping a balance to replenish their tills, and for facilitating the ordinary banking operations they may have with the Bank. Those bankers, or joint-stock banks, therefore, who are "debtors" to the "clearing" fill up and sign the document subjoined (marked D) which authorises the Bank of England to transfer so much for the account of the banker to that of the "Clearing House account," opened in the books of the Bank—

D

Settlement at the Clearing House,

London,

185

To the Cashiers of Bank of England.

Be pleased to transfer from our account the sum of
, and place it to the credit of the account of the clearing bankers, and allow it to be drawn for, by any of them (with the knowledge of either of the inspectors) signified by his countersigning the drafts.

£

and that (marked E) is the voucher that the transfer has been made by the Bank.

E

Settlement at the Clearing House.

Bank of England.

185

A transfer for the sum of
this evening been made at the Bank, from the account of Messrs.
to the account of the clearing bankers.

For the Bank of England,

£

This certificate has been seen by me,

Inspector.

Upon reference to the list (marked B), it will be perceived that Barnett and Co. stand as "debtors" nominally to the "clearing" in the sum of £7,000, consequently the transfer ticket signed by them enables the Bank of England to place to the credit of the "Clearing House account" just the amount required from their firm, and so on with the several other bankers who appear in that sheet as "debtors."

The letters "C. H." represent the "Clearing House account," and any errors or differences which cannot be at once remedied or discovered, are placed to that account until the next day, so that in the list (marked B) an error of £1 10s. appears, and the "C. H." is debited in that sum; but being presumed to have been discovered in the transactions of Willis and Co. on the 1st January, the account of Willis and Co. of the 2d January is debited, and the "C. H." account credited accordingly.

We now come to the final process.

Those banking houses that are found to be "creditors," fill up and sign the document (marked F) annexed for the amount due to them respectively, and to which they are entitled out of the proceeds of the "transfers" made to the "clearing account" at the Bank of England by the "debtors"—

F

Settlement at the Clearing House.

London,

185

To the Cashiers of the Bank of England.

Be pleased to credit our account the sum of
out of the money at the credit of the account of the clearing bankers.

£

seen by me.

Inspector at the Clearing House.

and the document (marked G) also annexed, is the voucher from the Bank that the accounts of the "creditors" are paid by the "debtors."

G

Settlement at the Clearing House.

Bank of England.

185

has

The account of Messrs.

this evening been credited with the sum of
out of the money at the credit of the account of the clearing bankers.

For the Bank of England,

£

Thus the momentous transactions of the banking houses are balanced and satisfied without the necessity of a single bank note; whereas, prior to the introduction of this admirable system, many thousand pound bank notes were requisite. It must be obvious that the circulation of bank notes (especially of a large denomination) is, in a great measure, dispensed with, and that by the facilities, simplicity and economy thus afforded, the joint-stock banks will, by participating in the advantages of the "clearing system," reap likewise the benefit, in a pecuniary point of view, and thereby create a further stimulus to the increasing value of their shares.

Mr. Gilbert, in his "Practical Treatise on Banking" (vol. II, p. 446) informs us that, in the evidence given before the "Bullion Committee" by Mr. Thomas, the inspector of the Clearing House, in the year 1810, that the average amount of drafts paid every day at the Clearing House was £4,700,000, and the average amount of the balance paid in bank notes was £220,000, thereby, even at that date, effecting an economy in the difference between "demand" and "means" of adjustment equal to $21\frac{1}{2}$ of the former.

In the year 1839 the demands upon the private bankers were £954,401,600, which were discharged by bank notes, in payment of the Clearing House balances, of £66,275,600, the average of the former for each month being £79,533,466, and of the latter £5,522,966.

In the year 1840, by a return published, the total amount passed through the Clearing House was £974,580,600: three bankers clearing, each upwards of £100,000,000; one £90,000,000; one £80,880,600; one £64,000,000;

one £56,000,000; one £50,000,000; and the remainder for amounts varying from £50,000,000 to £3,500,000; and averaging £17,633,333. The highest amount in any one case was £107,000,000; and the lowest £3,500,000; and the average amount cleared by each banking firm for the year being £37,483,869. Since that period no similar account has been furnished.

LIMITED AND UNLIMITED LIABILITY.

Connected with the general subject of joint-stock enterprise in this country is a question, the vitality and importance of which cannot be over-estimated. I allude to that of "unlimited liability," as compared with that of "limited liability," on the part of shareholders. I propose, therefore, to invite your consideration to this *vezata questio*, and, more especially, if rendered applicable to "joint-stock banks."

The law of partnership, as at present constituted, subjects the holder of a share in a joint-stock bank, in the event of the bank falling into difficulties, and unable to meet its engagements, to be liable to the last shilling of his property, until the whole of the creditors are paid. In some large and national undertakings—such as docks, railways, public works and steam, navigation companies, the liability of the shareholders is limited by special act of parliament, or by charter of incorporation from the Board of Trade, to the amount of the shares subscribed. But in "joint-stock banks" it is expressly provided by clause vii., 7 and 8 Vic., cap. 113. that the act of incorporation granted by parliament shall not limit the liability of the "several shareholders for the time being," and those who shall have been "shareholders therein, and their several executors, administrators, successors and assigns, shall be, and continue liable for all the dealings, &c., of the company." So far as regards those who may have ceased to be shareholders, the usual indemnity clause is inserted to restrict the liability to three years from the time of their having ceased to be shareholders; but, practically, the shareholders of banks are exposed to the fearful consequences of "unlimited liability." The question has been so ably treated by the press,* so fully investigated by committees appointed by the House of Commons so long back as nearly twenty years ago, in the years 1844 and 1851; and so amply discussed both in and out of parliament—as the debate upon the following resolution, moved by Mr. Collier in the House of Commons on the 27th June last will testify, and which was agreed to without a division, viz.:—"That the law of partnership, which renders every person who, though not an ostensible partner, shares the profits of a trading concern, liable to the whole of its debts, is unsatisfactory, and should be so far modified as to permit persons to contribute to the capital of such concerns on terms of sharing their profits, without incurring liability beyond a limited amount,"—that its importance can by no means be underrated. Supported as the resolution was by the Attorney-General, who pledged the introduction of a measure next session, and the powerful advocacy of it by several members of the House of Commons, tend materially to imply that a change in the law is contemplated by the Government. In order, however, to examine into the merits and demerits of the question, I may recapitulate the classes into which "limited partnership," as it exists in America and on the continent, is divided. There are three kinds.

† 1st. "The 'Société Anonyme,' or authorised joint-stock company.

2nd. "The 'Société en Commandité par Actions,' a society for carrying on

* Vide *Times*, leading article, June 28. 1854. Ditto, *Chambers' Journal*, August, 1854.

† Vide *Bankers' Magazine*, August, 1854, page 424, "The Law of Partnership."

some general business with a responsible manager or managers, and a capital represented by shares which are transferable to bearer, and may therefore be passed from hand to hand; and, lastly, 'the Commandité simple Nominative.'

Of these the first only is applicable to the purpose under consideration, and in effect limits the liability of the shareholders to the amount of the shares respectively held. I believe that, under proper regulations, as defined in those countries where the system prevails, it has worked well, and stimulated the diffusion of capital, which, under a contrary system, would not have found its way to the advancement of public enterprise.

I have much pleasure in referring to the "answers" given by Mr. Gilbert, the general manager of the London and Westminster Bank, to a series of questions* addressed to him by the "Mercantile Law Commissioners" relative to the operation of "limited liability" in connection with "joint-stock banks," because, although they do not go so far as to recommend the adoption of "limited liability," they suggest modifications in the present system of "unlimited liability," and supply considerations for legislative safeguards when the question shall be brought fairly before parliament. I will quote his replies to those of the series of queries (17 in number), put by the commissioners, which appear to bear more specifically upon banking companies. He states, in his answer to question No. 8, that, "in some cases, when there was good reason to believe that the banks had lost a part or the whole of their capital, they still retained the confidence of the public, and of the 'London bill-brokers' from a knowledge of the fact that all the shareholders were answerable to the whole extent of their property for the debts of the bank."

Question No. 10, that "it is undoubtedly true that many wealthy men abstain from becoming shareholders in 'joint-stock banks' in consequence of the 'unlimited liability,' and that, though friendly to the principles of 'joint-stock banking,' they take shares only in those banks which have charters, limiting the liability."

Question No. 11, that "it is desirable that the public should have permission to form 'joint-stock banks' with 'limited liability,' provided they complied with certain conditions to be fixed by the legislature, and provided means were adopted to ascertain that those conditions were permanently observed," and that the "conditions" should be defined by act of parliament, without any reference to the Treasury or the Board of Trade. As to what these "conditions" should be, he is of opinion "that certain general principles" might be adopted similar to those embodied in the charters granted to the colonial banks. They are:—

1. A fixed amount of paid-up capital.
2. An extent of liability on the part of the shareholders limited to three or four times the amount of the capital.
3. A restriction on the bank against incurring debts to the public, either by deposits, notes or any other means beyond a certain multiple of the paid-up capital.
4. A prohibition against engaging in other branches of business, or making certain classes of investments.

Mr. Gilbert also observes that it would be desirable to extend the foregoing restrictions to the prohibition of banks with "limited liability" making advances upon "dead securities," as land, houses, collieries, &c., the re-discounting bills of exchange, and the granting of loans above a certain proportion of their capital to any one individual or any one firm. And, further, "that if any existing 'joint-stock banks' should comply with the prescribed conditions, and become a bank with a 'limited liability,' but should afterwards find these 'conditions' to be injurious the bank should, on giving six months' notice, be

* Vide *Bankers' Magazine*, August, 1854, page 442.

allowed to return to its former state, and again become a bank with 'unlimited liability.'"

Such are the deliberate solutions of the queries affecting "limited liability" if applied to joint-stock banking, of one of the most eminent authorities, not only as a writer upon currency and banking but a practical banker. I am inclined to the opinion that if the "law of partnership" be defensible upon the ground of "unlimited liability," it should be applicable only to private firms, and not to joint-stock companies. If a person voluntarily become what is commonly termed a "sleeping partner" in a firm, and the fact be unpublished to the world, except in the *Gazette*, from the mere circumstance of his having lent a sum of money to enable, probably, the ostensible members of the firm to carry on the business and maintain its credit, creditors may, without doubt, be seriously affected by the death of the "monied partner," or by his seceding from the partnership, whatever the immediate cause may be; and here the principle of "unlimited liability" may, with some degree of justice, be advanced; but in the case of joint-stock companies, where a large number of individuals, totally unknown to each other, are invited to subscribe for shares in an undertaking, the extension of "liability" beyond the actual amount subscribed for, suggests the deepest reflection, when it is considered that, in the event of adverse circumstances, the law allows any holder of even a single share to be liable for the whole of the debts and contracts of the company. Certain it is that "unlimited liability" acts as a powerful drawback, and in many instances absolute impossibility, of establishing joint-stock companies, the objects of which might reflect credit upon the promoters and stimulate important public, if not national, improvements. Another instance of the ineffective operation of "unlimited liability," and especially as regards "joint-stock banks," is the provision wisely inserted in their deeds of settlement, that, if at any time a bank shall have lost a given proportion of its capital (say one-third), it shall be forthwith wound up. Such is the case in the "London Joint-Stock Bank," and but for such a timely proviso that important and highly successful institution might never have been established. Shareholders in such cases are practically guarded against the consequences of being called upon to pay, not only not more than they may have subscribed for, but not so much as they would had the liability been limited. The law, as it now stands, cannot be otherwise than arbitrary in its operation, for whilst, on the one hand, "unlimited liability" exposes the innocent holders of shares to consequences the effect of which may pervade a whole lifetime and produce irretrievable ruin, it indirectly encourages, in a sense, fictitious subscriptions, and thereby practically defeats the very object its supporters would fain accomplish. Looking at the relative application of "limited" and "unlimited liability" as to private firms and public trading companies, it should be borne in mind that, in the latter case, meetings of the shareholders are convened periodically, at least once in each year, and in some instances half-yearly; that their proceedings are published to the world either by voluntary means, such as by advertisements to the public or circular to the shareholders, and by the reporters of the press, who invariably have access to their meetings, besides which the law relating to joint-stock companies (banks excepted) compels registration of their balance-sheets, and, half-yearly, a correct return of the list of shareholders, so that creditors, or others who may have entered into contracts, such as assurers in life assurance offices, can at once, if they desire, satisfy themselves of the progress and available resources of public companies.

May it not also be fairly averred that in equity, if not in law, it is unjust to make a holder of shares liable to an indefinite amount, when his share of the "profits" can only be limited to, and regulated by, the precise number of shares held, and no more. To this extent "limited liability" demands con-

sideration, and justly so, because it is to that that the amount subscribed for indicates and prescribes the liability?

Upon the whole, might not the following restrictions in some degree modify the effect of "unlimited liability" in future legislation upon joint-stock banks?

I.—That no JOINT-STOCK BANK should be permitted to commence business until a certain defined and ample amount of capital be subscribed, and an adequate portion paid.

II.—The bank should be required to increase, up to a given amount, from time to time, its capital subscribed and paid up, by a further issue of shares, in proportion to the increased accumulation of its DEPOSITS or LIABILITIES to the public.

III.—That a public officer, responsible to the Crown, should be appointed to examine the periodical returns of joint-stock banks, and see that the requirements of the legislature shall have been duly complied with, under a heavy penalty in case of default or omission; and that each bank should receive and be bound to produce, when called upon, a certificate to that effect, signed by such public officer.

As it must be the natural desire and tendency of all governments to encourage and foster legitimate and *bona fide* enterprise, and more especially in a country like Great Britain, where the commercial and monetary interests are of such magnitude and importance, the result of the legislation promised next session attracts more than ordinary interest.

I have thus endeavoured to fulfil the desire expressed in my opening remarks, namely, "to consider the objects for which 'Joint Stock Banks' were established, to examine their resources, and to elucidate their progress." The result of the inquiry must, I think, be acknowledged to be satisfactory, and that these institutions are now so firmly based upon sound, and duly ascertained principles of banking, and so fortified against incidental or calamitous occurrences, as to leave no doubt of continued and permanent advancement in their triumphant and national career.

September, 1854.

TRADE OF THE UNITED KINGDOM.

THE Board of Trade returns for the month ending the 5th of August were issued on the 2nd of September, and continue to confirm the general indications of the activity of business. The declared value of our exports, as compared with the corresponding month of 1853, shows an increase of £377,105, although upon that occasion there was an improvement over the preceding year of £1,405,918. The chief augmentation is still in metals, owing to the growing demand for railway bars, electric wires, gas-fittings, and iron or brass articles of use or ornament, all over the world; but in all its general features likewise the return is satisfactory. Cotton goods show no falling off; and the price of the staple being lower than at the same time last year, the absence of any diminution in the declared value of the shipments is equivalent to an actual increase in amount—a fact which is borne out by the information given in the table under the head of quantities. On the unfavourable side, the principal items are woollen and linen manufactures and haberdashery, mainly in consequence of reduced consignments to Australia; the exports of haberdashery, which

includes ready-made clothing, having at this period of last year, owing to the demand for the gold colonies, exhibited an increase of more than 100 per cent. The subjoined table gives the exact increase or decrease in the shipments under each head:—

DECLARED VALUE OF EXPORTATIONS.

Month ending August 5.	1853.	1854.	Increase.	Decrease.
Alkali—viz., soda	£44,602	£44,567	—	£35
Beer and ale	103,846	105,542	£1,696	—
Butter	36,473	36,107	—	366
Candles	11,140	12,985	1,845	—
Cheese	6,821	3,536	—	3,285
Coals and culm	175,225	201,670	26,445	—
Cordage and cables	9,981	27,944	17,963	—
Cotton manufactures	2,359,545	2,367,811	8,266	—
Cotton yarn	524,204	583,358	59,154	—
Earthenware	127,213	128,887	1,674	—
Fish	29,427	14,229	—	15,198
Glass manufactures	42,019	49,471	7,452	—
Haberdashery and millinery	489,783	411,233	—	78,550
Hardware and cutlery	312,224	347,556	35,332	—
Leather... ..	127,418	138,320	10,902	—
Linen manufactures	398,790	357,357	—	41,433
Linen yarn	79,422	60,002	—	19,420
Machinery	161,863	200,020	38,157	—
Metals	1,254,884	1,509,491	254,607	—
Oil and seeds	24,679	51,204	26,525	—
Painters' colours, &c.	22,803	28,589	5,786	—
Salt	28,322	40,595	12,273	—
Silk manufactures... ..	158,926	161,458	2,532	—
Silk, thrown	12,587	18,215	5,628	—
Silk, twist, and yarn	15,689	41,959	26,270	—
Soap	25,090	16,274	—	8,816
Stationery	57,377	70,366	12,989	—
Sugar, refined	26,401	14,376	—	12,025
Wool, sheep or lambs'	28,435	100,973	72,538	—
Woollen manufactures... ..	1,171,252	1,061,912	—	109,340
Woollen yarn	128,645	166,184	37,539	—
Total... ..	7,995,086	8,372,191		

The aggregate value of our exports during the first seven months of the year has been £51,805,194, against £49,861,643 in the corresponding period of 1853, showing an increase of £1,943,551, or nearly 4 per cent., which has occurred in the following order:—

Month ending	Increase.	Decrease.
February 5	—	£368,748
March 5	£344,784	—
April 5	993,572	—
May 5	—	747,527
June 5	409,457	—
July 5	934,908	—
August 5	377,105	—

As compared with the same period of 1852, there has been an increase of £11,666,634.

With regard to imported commodities, the chief feature is one which is likely to be remarkable during each succeeding month, namely, a large diminution in the arrivals and consumption of foreign grain and flour. Up to this period of 1854, the aggregate importations of bread-stuffs had been equal to an increase of 15 or 16 per cent. over the totals for the corresponding portion of 1853, but these figures will now be strangely altered before the end of the year. In other articles there has been no particular variation, but the tendency has been rather toward diminished consumption—coffee, cocoa, sugar, wines, spirits, tobacco, fruits, and spices, all presenting a slight decline. In tea there has been an increase. With respect to wines, although the consumption has been rather less, an increased importation is still observable: another illustration being thus afforded of the way in which high prices usually bring in a supply of all articles, whatever may be the threatenings of deficiency, either from blockaded coasts or sudden blights.

Subjoined are the quantities of provisions, &c., imported and taken for home consumption:—

Month ending August 5.	Imported.		Home Consumption.	
	1853.	1854.	1853.	1854.
Grain, wheat, quarters	691,738	281,050	691,738	281,050
Grain of other descriptions, qrs. .	274,675	247,362	274,675	247,362
Indian corn, quarters	288,222	106,677	288,222	106,677
Flour and meal, cwt.	379,290	250,364	379,290	250,364
Provisions—Bacon, pork, lard, cwt.	59,406	129,161	Free.	Free.
Butter and cheese, cwt.	95,487	77,046	84,425	79,022
Animals, No.	35,510	32,333	Free.	Free.
Eggs, No.	13,237,416	12,694,886	12,846,006	12,715,046
Cocoa, lb.	827,230	342,401	349,269	332,654
Coffee, British, lb.	6,129,397	6,468,830	2,495,868	2,611,570
Ditto, foreign, lb.	2,147,700	2,167,229	631,635	353,646
Total coffee	8,277,097	8,636,059	3,127,503	2,965,216
Sugar—				
West India, cwt.	365,037	278,360	320,101	183,456
Mauritius, cwt.	111,226	125,207	89,403	74,766
East India, cwt.	78,271	12,582	112,632	24,324
Foreign, cwt.	337,290	564,075	228,479	445,662
Total sugar	891,824	980,224	759,615	728,148
Tea, lb.	5,547,361	3,977,641	4,900,746	5,086,415
Rice, cwt.	277,904	182,644	73,579	64,310
Spirits gallons	748,888	943,081	380,467	348,665
Wines, gallons	1,119,481	1,144,390	605,051	556,437
Opium, lb.	2,608	1,103	6,944	4,285
Tobacco, lb.	1,663,002	223,992	2,477,764	2,307,582
Currants, figs and raisins, cwt. .	34,990	7,662	34,719	27,057
Lemons and oranges, bushels . .	20,556	4,825	10,352	4,903
Spices, lb.	558,339	721,562	359,899	309,791
Ditto cwt.	89	480	178	199

The following are the comparative imports and exports of raw material, showing that the increased supply of flax, hemp and tallow ob-

servable throughout the year still continues, notwithstanding the apprehensions of a deficiency through the Russian war :—

Month ending August 5.	Imported.		Exported.	
	1853.	1854.	1853.	1854.
Flax, cwt.	82,499	196,105	—	—
Hemp, cwt.	91,676	126,721	—	—
Raw silk, lb.	331,313	490,897	43,677	148,909
Cotton, cwt.	731,949	917,997	140,787	126,724
Wool, lb.	12,282,082	11,195,822	601,709	2,513,746
Tallow, cwt.	48,705	51,484	—	—

Of silk manufactures the totals stand thus :—

Month ending August 5.	Imported.		Home Consumption.	
	1853.	1854.	1853.	1854.
Silk manufactures of Europe, lb.	70,725	69,001	71,578	64,023
Ditto, of Indian pieces	27,779	103,562	12,429	11,417

The importation of other articles during the month have been mostly on an active scale. Dyes and dyeing stuffs show a decrease, except in cochineal and indigo. In glass manufactures there is a very large and continuous increase. Hides and all kinds of oil likewise show an augmentation, as well as metals, with the exception of iron bars and lead. Both in the importation and consumption of timber there has been a decrease.

MERCANTILE SUSPENSIONS.

SINCE the last appearance of the *Bankers' Magazine* a number of failures have taken place, principally provincial and American. The latter comprise every department of business, and have occurred in consequence of the general depression produced by the late railway panic in New York and Philadelphia. The following is a list of the various firms, as far as their description can be ascertained.

Aug.—W. R. Sercombe, London, corn trade.

T. Freen and Co., London, Roman cement manufacturers.

Farmers' and Merchants' Bank, Memphis, America, bankers.

Erie and Kalamazoo Railway Bank of Michigan and Bank of Wash-
tenaw, America, bankers.

Peck and Bloodgood, New York, dry goods jobbers.

A. Edwards and Co., New York, silk importers.

Sept.—H. Sheldon and Co., Philadelphia, dry goods merchants.

Franklin Platt and Co., Philadelphia, merchants.

Bassett, Aborn and Co., New York, wholesale stationers.

David Scott, Richmond and Co., Manchester, commission agents.

A. W. Park, Manchester, China and South American trade.

Currie, Dale and Co., London, East India agents.
Deane, Youle and Co., Liverpool, South American trade.
Lukin and Skuratoff, Moscow, merchants.

The affairs of Mr. Sercombe and Messrs. T. Freen and Co. do not, it is believed, involve important sums, and little can be stated with regard to the prospects of liquidation. The whole of the New York and Philadelphia failures are for considerable amounts, and speculations in railway securities and other stocks are alleged to have precipitated their downfall. The suspension of Messrs. David Scott, Richmond and Co., which has been followed by those of Mr. A. W. Park, Messrs. Currie, Dale and Co., and Messrs. Deane, Youle and Co., include liabilities for nearly £1,000,000 sterling, but a considerable part of the engagements will run off. The position of Messrs. Scott, Richmond and Co. will be gleaned from the statement presented to the creditors on the 22nd September.

LIABILITIES.			
To book debts	£42,924	7	1
To liabilities—bills in the hands of third parties..	150,370	16	11
	£193,295	4	0
ASSETS.			
By book debts owing to the concern	£47,884	6	1
By debts owing to the concern for which acceptances have been given	27,472	16	3
By goods in the hands of consignees	8,688	0	10
By stock of goods, fixtures, and miscellaneous stock in warehouse	5,411	17	1
By miscellaneous property.. ..	480	0	0
By bills and cash on hand	3,412	16	1
By available security deposited	2,000	0	0
	£95,349	16	4

With regard to this balance-sheet, it is observed,

"In addition to the liabilities above enumerated, there are bills to the amount of £245,000 running, in which the firm is interested, but these are all good, and will be duly retired at maturity; so that, although the failure involves a total amount of £438,295, the actual sum with which the creditors will have to deal is that set down in the balance-sheet above given,—viz., £193,295 4s. The liabilities on bills in the hands of third parties is the item in which the creditors are the most interested, inasmuch as in that item is involved the paper bearing the names of the three other firms which have since stopped payment, and on the realization of their assets depends materially the position of this estate. Besides the assets enumerated there is Mr. Scott's private estate, which will probably produce from £10,000 to £15,000 for the general estate, but not more than that."

In reference to the failure of Messrs. H. Rogers and Sons, of Wolverhampton, noticed last month, a correspondent writes to correct the description, and to furnish additional information. He states that Messrs. Rogers and Sons, were merchants and not manufacturers. The embarrassments of the firm were only temporary, and business was resumed in a few days. The estate shows a surplus of £90,000, and the whole of its engagements will be met in a very short period.

Banking and Commercial Law.

ON THE POWERS OF PUBLIC COMPANIES TO BORROW MONEY, AND THE PRECAUTIONS NECESSARY TO BE TAKEN BY LENDERS TO ENTITLE THEM TO RECOVER LOANS MADE TO SUCH COMPANIES.

APPLICATIONS for loans are so frequently made to bankers by public companies, that some knowledge of the extent to which the law will protect and enforce such transactions is very essential to every banker who wishes to carry on his business with reasonable safety. It has happened that loans have been obtained from bankers which have been lost through the want of this kind of knowledge.

Under the head of public companies we include all concerns which consist of several persons, and are not private partnerships. The powers of the managing bodies of these concerns are not alike, but vary with the nature of the business, and the express provisions of the act of parliament, charter, or deed of settlement regulating their affairs.

We shall, in the course of a series of papers, discuss the powers of borrowing with regard to all public companies, commencing with joint-stock banks, which we shall make the subject of this paper.

In future papers we shall consider the powers of railway companies, mining companies, cemetery companies, commissioners for executing public works, companies for erecting public buildings, assurance companies, building societies, and miscellaneous companies.

1st. With regard to the power to borrow possessed by joint-stock banks.

A power to borrow may be expressly given by the charter or regulating instrument, or it may be implied from the nature of the business and the necessities of the case.

Much useful knowledge on these heads will be obtained from the judgment of the Court in the recent case of *MacLae v. Sutherland*, 23 Law Journal (Queen's Bench), 229. The question there arose with regard to the power to borrow possessed by the directors of the Royal Bank of Australia. The Court there said,—

“We now arrive at the real merits of the cause, and we have to consider whether the directors of this company had authority, under the circumstances stated, to make these notes, which are allowed to be signed by three directors, and to be issued by order of a court of directors.

“We do not think that the plaintiffs can rely entirely upon an implied

authority in the directors to issue notes and to raise money in the ordinary course of banking business.

"Although mere shareholders in a joint-stock company have no authority to pledge the credit of the company, the directors appointed to carry on the business would have implied by such of the ordinary powers of partners in a common mercantile partnership as are required for the carrying on of the business for which the company is formed; and where a joint-stock banking company is established, the directors would be considered the agents of the shareholders, to borrow money for the ordinary purposes of the business, and to give securities in the ordinary form for the money borrowed. In the case of the bank of *Australasia v. Breillat*, before the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council, Mr. Pemberton Leigh, Chancellor of the Duchy of Cornwall, in pronouncing the judgement of the court, says:—

"The nature of a banker's business necessarily exposes him to sudden and immediate demands, which may be to the extent of a large proportion of his debts, while his profits are to be made in employing his own moneys and those intrusted to him in discounting bills, in loans and other modes of investment. It is impossible that he should always have his assets in such a state as to be applicable immediately to the payment of all demands which may be made upon him; and if a partner has no power under such circumstances to borrow money for the partnership, either the assent of each individual member must be obtained (which may often be impracticable), or the concern must be ruined. We have no doubt at all, therefore, that in ordinary banking partnerships such power exists, and that the directors, by the terms of their appointment, had all the general powers, and, among the rest, the power of borrowing, unless such power is excluded by other provisions of the deed.' But in the present case the transactions out of which these notes arose cannot be considered to have been in the ordinary course of banking business.

"The money was originally borrowed to be used as capital, and the securities were not such as would usually be taken for an ordinary loan to a banking company. We therefore think that it lies upon the plaintiffs to show that, from some extraordinary course of business described in the deed, and authorised by it, or by some extraordinary powers conferred upon the directors, they could bind the company in a manner that would have been incompetent to the partners of a banking firm, or the directors of a joint-stock company instituted to carry on the usual operations of banking; or, failing these, that there has been a ratification by the shareholders of those acts of the directors which otherwise would not have been binding on them. We must therefore apply ourselves, in the first place, to the deed of settlement executed by the shareholders. The scope of the contemplated business is described in section 6. Thus, the directors were not only authorised to carry on the business of banking in London, but to establish as many banks as they might deem advisable, over almost the whole habitable globe. For this purpose they must incidentally have been vested with much more extensive powers than belong to those who are merely to carry on in one particular locality a bank, either of deposit, or of issue, or of both. Further, section 9 expressly declares 'That the trade or business of the company wherever carried on, shall be that of bankers or of banking, including the making and issuing of bank notes, and bills payable on demand, after sight, after date, or otherwise, and the making of loans, &c., on lands and tenements, on sheep, cattle and live stock, on wool, farm stock and produce, and on all and every other kind and description of property whatsoever, including the borrowing or taking up moneys at interest on receipts, on inland or foreign bills of exchange, or promissory notes, bonds, debentures, deposits, receipts or other obligations, as shall from time to time be deemed expedient.'

Then, by section 10, the management of the company, and the business and concerns thereof, and the regulations, investment and application of the properties, funds, securities and moneys for the time being belonging to the company, and the regulation and determination of the modes and terms of carrying on and transacting the business of the company, and all other matters and things whatsoever connected with or relating to the business or concerns of the company, are solely and exclusively vested and reposed in the court of directors 'except as herein is excepted or otherwise provided.' With such transcendent powers to accomplish such stupendous objects, can it be said that the directors, for raising capital to trade with, were confined to the sale of shares, and to enforcing calls upon those shares till £50 had been paid upon each, whatever might be the state of the share market—whether the shares of the company might be at a premium or at a discount, and although the sudden multiplication of calls might necessarily lead to the utter ruin of the concern.

"It is said, truly, that the purpose for which the money was originally raised by the promissory notes, was not, as in the Australasia and Australia case, to discharge any pre-existing engagement of the company; but is there not here an express authority given to raise money, to be employed as capital in the manner which was adopted by the directors. They were to borrow or take up money at interest on promissory notes, debentures, or other obligations; and how to be applied? In making loans and advances to customers and other persons, in lands and tenements, sheep, cattle, wool, &c. Does not this mean that that the money might be borrowed on promissory notes or debentures in this country, and sent to Australia, where, branch banks being established, it should be lent at a high interest to customers and others on lands and tenements, sheep, cattle, and other property to be pledged. If there was authority so to borrow the money, there was authority to give the promissory notes or debentures as a security for it. There being authority so to borrow the money, the *bonâ fide* holders for value of the promissory notes or debentures could not have been prejudiced by the misapplication of it; but, in truth, it was not misapplied. The case finds that the 'directors never used the funds of the bank for their own purposes, nor dealt in shares;' and it appears by the evidence that the money was carried to Australia, that a branch was established at Sidney, and that a sum of above £300,000 was there advanced upon sheep, cattle, wool, and such property as is specified in the deed to be taken by the directors as security for advances. The plaintiffs likewise relied upon section 43 of the deed, which says, that the court of directors may issue, at any of the offices or banking houses where the business of the company shall be carried on, any notes or bills payable after date, after sight on demand, or otherwise, which it shall be lawful or competent for the company to issue, or consistently with the laws for the time being in force in relation to bankers or banking companies. We think, however, that this applies only to dealing as a bank of issue, and would not extend to the borrowing of money to be employed in trade on such instruments as are the foundation of the present action. To authorise such borrowing, we think that the sections previously quoted are abundantly sufficient. According to the *Bank of England v. Anderson*, and various other cases upon the bank monopoly acts, this was 'a borrowing or taking up money at interest upon promissory notes or debentures. The observation that the power of borrowing was confined to borrowing on securities and property which the company might acquire from others in the course of their dealings, is wholly at variance with the language of the deed. The promissory notes and debentures there mentioned were evidently promissory notes and debentures to be originally created by the directors, and given by way of security for sums honoured on behalf of the company.'

"In *Burmester v. Norris*, in which it was properly held that there was no power to borrow on the credit of a company, the business to be carried on and the power conferred on the directors by the deed were quite different from what we find here."

LEGAL NOTES.

REPEAL OF THE USURY LAWS.—We have to congratulate our readers on the entire repeal of the Usury Laws, as regards future transactions. It is now lawful to take any rate of interest and any description of security, either land or otherwise. The act by which this is effected, is the 17 and 18 Vict., c. 90, and it is now in operation.

THE NEW STAMP LAWS.

THE *Times* has published the following correspondence and remarks on points arising under the new act.

We think we can see an additional difficulty which we may do some good by referring to, as it may thereby be met in the amending act to which the present act will no doubt, as usual, give rise.

We allude to the possible necessity of proving in a court of justice, in proceedings relating to a foreign bill drawn in sets, that all the parts are duly stamped. How is this to be done, unless all the parts are produced? And if that be requisite, will it not cause great inconvenience?

It was mentioned lately that a question had arisen with regard to the New Stamp Act, which is to come into operation on the 11th of October, as to whether in the case of foreign bills it is to apply only to such as are dated on or after that day, or to all that may then fall due. Upon this and some other points of the act the following correspondence has passed between the Bank of England and the Board of Inland Revenue, and it appears not only that it is to operate retrospectively as regards foreign bills, but also that that result, instead of having been caused by an oversight, as most persons were inclined to suppose, was intended when the measure was framed:—

"Bank of England, Aug. 25.

"Sir,—I am desired by the Governors of the Bank of England to submit to you the following points on the New Stamp Act, which are of serious importance, and have excited great interest in the city of London among the mercantile community.

"By the 1st section it is enacted that from the 10th of October certain stamp duties shall be repealed, and, in lieu thereof, shall be granted, charged, and paid certain duties specified in the schedule. Some of the duties specified in the schedule are altogether new and not substitutes for any existing duties. I refer to the duties on foreign bills. The question is, if the new duties imposed on foreign bills are to take effect from the 10th of October, or whether they take effect immediately, under the general operation of the act for want of any time being fixed?

"2. Supposing such duties to take effect on the 10th of October, will they apply to all bills at that date, or only to bills drawn after that date? The latter was obviously intended by the proviso in section 1, but that proviso appears only in terms to save from repeal or alteration any stamp duties then payable in relation to any bill of exchange dated before the 10th of October,—there were not, however, any stamp duties then payable in relation to foreign bills which could be the subject of repeal or alteration, and the question is, if the proviso will prevent the new duty from attaching on such bills?

"3. With respect to foreign bills drawn in sets,—does clause 6 apply to bills drawn abroad and payable here, as well as to bills drawn here and payable abroad? As respects bills drawn abroad, all the parts of a bill do not ordinarily arrive together, and where there are three or more, it is not unusual to keep back one or more parts. Further, it is usual to send one part of a bill to the drawer's agent for acceptance, and to negotiate the other parts; but section 6 appears to restrain the negotiability of one part of a bill in England without all the others.

"Is it intended absolutely to prohibit the negotiability of one part of a bill unless all parts are transferred, or to require that each of the parts negotiated where they are not all transferred at the same time shall be stamped with full duty, as a single bill in such case?

"4. In reference to the provision in section 5,—will it suffice, on endorsing a foreign bill, that the date be stamped or written by a clerk, or must it be written by the person who endorses it? This, though it may appear a small matter, is really a serious consideration in the conduct of business.

"I have the honour to be, sir, your obedient servant,
"J. R. ELSEY, Deputy-Cashier."

"Inland Revenue, Somerset-house, London, Aug. 29.

"Sir,—I have laid before the Board of Inland Revenue your communication putting four questions with regard to the operation of the Stamp Act of the last session, 17th and 18th of Victoria, chap. 83.

"I am directed to state in reply, that all the duties contained in the schedule of the Stamp Act alluded to (including the duties on foreign bills) take effect from the 10th of October, 1854, that is, on the 11th of that month, and not before.

"2. The new stamp duties will apply to all bills and notes drawn in the United Kingdom on and after the 11th of October, 1854, and to all foreign bills drawn out of the United Kingdom which shall be presented for payment, paid, endorsed, transferred, or negotiated in the United Kingdom on or after the 11th of October, 1854, without regard to the date of such foreign bills, or the time when they were drawn. The proviso in section 1 does not apply to the last-mentioned foreign bills, and it was not intended that it should do so.

"3. Section 6 applies to foreign bills drawn and payable abroad, if negotiated in this kingdom, as well as to foreign bills drawn in this kingdom payable abroad, such bills respectively purporting to be drawn in sets; but it does not apply to bills drawn abroad and payable here. The effect of this section in regard to all the bills to which it applies, is to prohibit the negotiation of one part of a bill unless all the parts are duly stamped and transferred.

"4. The object to be effected by the writing of the name and date on the stamp is (as expressed in the act), to cancel it, and the board think that it will be a sufficient compliance with the law if this be done by a clerk.

"I have the honour to be, sir, your obedient servant,

"J. R. ELSEY, Esq.

"THOMAS KEOGH."

A deputation of bankers, consisting of Messrs. Masterman, Robarts, Glyn,

Prescott, Bevan, and Sir J. Lubbock, have waited upon the Chancellor of the Exchequer, upon some points connected with the Stamp Acts. Their chief object was to ascertain if the retrospective and, consequently, objectionable operation of the measure which comes into force on the 11th of next month, by which all foreign bills are to be subjected to a stamp, could be modified so as to apply only to those dated on or after that day, instead of to all that then fall due; but it was stated that while there would have been every disposition to accede to the request as far as regards the question of revenue, the clauses in the act are considered too explicit to admit the desired construction. With respect to an inquiry whether bankers may continue to give acknowledgments without receipt stamps for money paid in or remitted by their customers, and also to receive advice from their agents of similar payments, the answer was that they will be free to do so.

Legal Miscellany.

FERRIS V. MULLINS.—EX PARTE THE ROYAL BRITISH BANK.

Vice-Chancellors' Courts, July 21st. (Before SIR R. T. KINDERSLEY.)—This was the petition of the Royal British Bank, presented under the following circumstances:—On the 1st of August, 1850, the Royal British Bank agreed to allow the late Richard Mullins, who was one of their secretaries and solicitors, credit on an account current to the extent of £3,000, and, by way securing the balance that might become due on his account, Mullins gave them a promissory note for £3,000, and deposited with them three policies of assurance on his own life to the amount of £2,998 19s., and an assignment of a policy on another person's life for £150. He at the same time signed a memorandum under seal, by which it was provided that the promissory note and policies were to be a security for a sum not exceeding £4,000. Mullins allowed one of the policies on his own life and the policy for £150 to lapse. After the date of the memorandum, Mullins overdraw the amount of £4,000 limited by it, and on that circumstance becoming known to one of the clerks of the bank, the clerk mentioned it to Mullins, who said that it was of no consequence, as the bank held securities for his cash credit account to the amount of upwards of £5,000. In December, 1853, Mullins died, and thereupon the plaintiff, to whom Mullins had mortgaged some property in Wiltshire, called "The Box Estate," to secure £1,000, instituted a creditor's suit against his widow, his legal personal representative, for the administration of his estate. After Mullins's death one of the clerks of the bank applied to Paddison, who, with Mullins, was joint solicitor and secretary to the bank, for leave to examine a repository of securities and other papers in the secretary's office at the bank. On such search being made in a drawer of the repository, among other securities belonging to the bank were found certain deeds and policies tied up in a bundle, and on the outside was a document endorsed, "Cash credit security, policy, dated August 1, 1850, £3,000. Edward Mullins to the Royal British Bank." In the bundle there were the title-deeds relating to the Box property, in mortgage to the plaintiff, and a policy for £1,000, dated in 1851, besides two policies mentioned in the memorandum of August, 1850, and other documents. The Royal British Bank had received the sums which became payable on the several policies (including the policy dated in 1851 for £1,000), amounting to £3,429 7s. 4d., and had paid this sum into court, and they now applied by this petition for the payment of that sum to them on account, and in part discharge of their claim against the estate of Mullins, under the

memorandum of the 1st of August, 1850, and they offered to deal with the other securities as the court might direct.

The Vice-Chancellor.—The evidence in this case is all one way. The question is, whether the petitioners, the Royal British Bank, have a lien upon these deeds, especially upon the policy of assurance for £1,000, by way of equitable mortgage. The case is, that the debtor to the bank, whose advance from the bank was secured by the deposit of these deeds, was himself an officer of the bank—one of their joint secretaries. That these were transactions between the bank and Mr. Mullins, in the course of which there was a deposit of certain deeds, to secure the balance due from him as upon a cash account, is not disputed. The only question is, whether certain other deeds, among which was included this policy of assurance not mentioned in the memorandum of deposit, are subject to a lien on the part of the bank. It appeared that the advances made by the bank to Mr. Mullins on his account, exceeded the amount stipulated for upon the first deposit and mentioned in the memorandum. It also appeared that another officer of the bank noticed the excess of the advances made to Mr. Mullins; but Mr. Mullins said that the bank had sufficient security; and, applying that expression to the transaction, it can only mean this, that he referred to further advances beyond the amount mentioned in the memorandum of deposit; for without further advances the expression would have no meaning. But the case goes far beyond that; because it appears that the deeds included in the first memorandum of deposit had been tied up in a bundle and deposited along with other securities at the bank, and that these additional instruments, including the policy of assurance, were tied up in the same bundle, and on the outside of the bundle was the original memorandum of deposit, describing it as a security for cash account. An attempt has been made to show that the custody of the whole of the deeds included in the bundle was not in the custody of the bank, but remained in the custody of the debtor, Mr. Mullins. The bundle was found in a drawer in the office of the bank. That circumstance would make the custody in the bank. But it was said that the office in which the drawer in question was, was used by Mr. Mullins for his private business, and that the fact that in the same drawer were found other securities of the bank, clearly shows that the custody was in the bank, which would be the proper custody; for Mr. Mullins, as an honest officer and debtor of the bank, who had given a security, would have dealt with that security exactly in the way in which I find he has dealt with it. All the deeds were tied up together, including the deeds claimed by the bank as additional security, and deposited by him in the drawer with other securities of the bank. But it is said the custody was entirely his, because he kept the key of the drawer, and was an officer of the bank; but he was satisfied, in the absence of the slightest tittle of evidence to the contrary, that the conduct of Mr. Mullins was that of an honest debtor, who, having given a security, had deposited it in a drawer with other securities of the bank. I can therefore only attribute the custody of the deeds to the bank. But then it is said that there is no memorandum in writing to show that these further instruments were included in the security to the bank; and it must be a strange confusion of law to insist upon the necessity of a memorandum in writing with an equitable deposit in a case of this kind, which stands in a different position from that in which charges on land are placed on account of the operation of the Statute of Frauds. But the policy of assurance is a chattel interest, and therefore there is not any degree of force in the argument that there must be evidence in writing. Here the creditors had possession of the policy under circumstances which showed that it came into their possession as a security for further advances; and I know of no principle that authorises the court to take an instrument like a policy of assurance from the hands of creditors who hold it under such circumstances, and enable

the legal personal representative of the debtor to claim it as a part of his personal estate. My opinion is, that the case of the petitioners is sufficiently made out by the evidence; and I must make an order on the footing that they are entitled to hold all the deeds and instruments in the bundle as a security for the balance due to them from the testator.

IN RE DAVIDSON AND GORDON.

Court of Bankruptcy, Basinghall Street, July 7th. (Before Mr. Commissioner GOULBOURN.)

THE bankrupts were colonial brokers and metal agents, of Mincing-lane and Cousin-lane, and distillers, of West Ham. This was a meeting for the proof of debts and choice of assignees. Debts were admitted to the amount £17,807, and one for £6,040 as tendered by Mr. George Hudson, M.P., on account of damages sustained by the bankrupts failing to deliver 1,000 tons of copper, ordered to stand over for investigation. The entire amount of debts provable is said to exceed £500,000; the assets to be very small. Mr. William Beddoe, of Huggin-lane, and Mr. Samuel Hess, of Manchester, were appointed assignees. Messrs. Linklater are the solicitors in the case. Mr. Nicholson is the official assignee.

IN RE J. WINDLE COLE.

Court of Bankruptcy, Basinghall Street, Sept. 6th. (Before Mr. Commissioner FONBLANQUE.)

This was the day appointed for the choice of assignees in the case of J. Windle Cole, merchant, Birchin Lane, late of the firm of Cole Brothers. The amount of liabilities is said to be about £300,000, but nothing certain can at present be ascertained either as to the debts or assets. The following gentlemen were chosen assignees:—Mr. George Gabain, of St. Michael's Alley, merchant; Mr. Seton Laing, of Mincing Lane, colonial broker; and Mr. Nicholas Breebart, of Mincing Lane, gentleman.

Mr. Graham is the official assignee; Messrs. Linklater are solicitors to the assignees.

Bank Meetings.

THE BANK OF ENGLAND.

A GENERAL court of the proprietors of Bank of England stock was held on Thursday, the 14th of September, at 12 o'clock, at the Bank of England, Mr. J. G. Hubbard, the governor, presiding.

The minutes of the last court having been read and confirmed.

The Governor said,—I have to acquaint the court that this is one of the quarterly general courts appointed by the charter, and also one of the half-yearly general courts appointed by the bye-laws for the declaration of a dividend. The net profits for the half-year ending the 31st of August last, were £624,326 6s. 1d., making the amount of the "rest" on that day £3,654,912 8s. 1d.; and, after providing a dividend of $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., the "rest" will be £3,000,027 8s. 1d. The court of directors therefore propose that a dividend of $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., shall be declared, if this court think fit, for the half-year ending the 31st of August last, without deduction on account of income-tax. (Hear, hear.)

The motion was then put and carried unanimously.

The Governor said,—I have further to acquaint the court that the dividend warrants will be delivered and paid on Wednesday, the 11th of October next. The court then adjourned.

THE CUMBERLAND UNION BANK.

THE proprietors of the Cumberland Union Bank held their twenty-fifth general annual meeting at Workington on the 25th July, 1854, to receive the usual statement of accounts and declare a dividend. The net profits for the year ending 30th June amount to £13,811 6s. 8d., being upwards of 23 per cent. upon the paid-up capital. A dividend of £4 per £30 share was agreed to; and, after paying income tax and a gratuity to the clerks, the sum of £5,261 6s. 2d. was carried to the guarantee fund. The proprietary funds of the bank stand thus:—

Capital	..	..	..	..	£60,000	0	0
Guarantee fund	..	..	..	..	18,501	17	0

Together .. £78,501 17 0 in place of
£20,000 advanced by the proprietors.

BIRMINGHAM AND MIDLAND BANK.

THE eighteenth annual general meeting of the shareholders was held at the bank on the 9th of August, Mr. John Ratcliff in the chair. A dividend of £2 10s. per share for the half-year was declared, payable on and after the 1st of September—Mr. Scholefield, M.P., and Mr. Ratcliff, were re-elected directors; and thanks were voted to the board for continued attention to the duties of their office. Thanks were likewise given to Mr. Charles Geach, M.P., the managing director, and Mr. Edmunds, the manager, for their faithful attention to the interests of the bank. The following report was presented:—

“The directors have to report that the year's profits, after paying the past year's income tax, and abundantly providing for every bad and doubtful debt, amount to .. £22,079 9 9

Deduct dividend of £2 10s. per share, paid for the half-year ending 31st of December, 1852 .. £6,500

The directors recommend a dividend of £2 10s. per share, for the half-year ending 30th of June last 6,500
13,000 0 0

Which will leave a balance, to be carried to the guarantee fund, of 9,079 9 9

The guarantee fund at the last annual meeting amounted to 39,160 7 0

Interest to 30th June, 1854 1,166 6 7

Premiums on six shares issued since the last annual meeting 388 0 0

Surplus profits as above 9,079 9 9

£49,794 3 4

The paid-up capital amounts to .. £130,000

The directors have, with a view to the convenience of the connections of the bank in that neighbourhood, determined to establish a branch at Wednesday, so soon as the necessary arrangements can be made for that purpose.”

BIRMINGHAM TOWN AND DISTRICT BANKING COMPANY.

At the eighteenth annual general meeting of the proprietors, held at Dee's Royal Hotel, on the 8th of August, Mr. J. O. Bacchus in the chair, the following report was read :—

"The directors have much pleasure in calling together the proprietors of the Birmingham Town and District Bank, as customary at this period of the year, to give an account of their stewardship, and to lay before them the result of the business transacted at the bank during the past year. It is gratifying to the directors to notice the successful progress of the bank, and to be enabled to report that, after a careful investigation of the accounts, they find a satisfactory amount of profit has been realised from last year's business. After writing off a liberal sum for bad debts, paying the income-tax on the previous year, and the current charges on this, the profit on the year ending the 30th of June last amounts to £14,063 0s. 3d. This amount is considerably more than has been realised on the business of any former year, and arises principally from the increase of the connections of the bank. The directors therefore consider that the extension of business should be met by a corresponding addition to the reserve fund, so as to give a more ample guarantee for conducting the business of the bank. The surplus which remained after the payment of the dividends and bonuses of 1853, and the profit now realised, will enable the directors to pay the same dividend and bonus as before, namely, 15 per cent. on the paid-up capital; and they now recommend that £5,000 be added to the reserve fund out of the surplus profits. If this proposal be adopted by the meeting, the statement of account will stand thus :—

Surplus, after payment of the dividends of 1853 ..	£3,360	18	5
From which the following sums have been paid to charities :—			

General Hospital	£50	0	0
Queen's Hospital	50	0	0
Poor relief fund	30	0	0
		130	0

Leaving a surplus profit of	£3,230	18	5
To which add the profit of this year	14,063	0	3

Making an available total of	£17,293	18	8
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Disposed of as follows :—

To March dividend and bonus, free of income tax ..	£5,625	0	0
Dividend and bonus, payable on and after the 1st of September next, free of income tax ..	5,625	0	0
Building account	100	0	0
Reserve fund	5,000	0	0
Next year's account	943	18	8

Making as above	£17,293	18	8
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The reserve fund in 1853 was	£40,000	0	0
To which now add	5,000	0	0

Making that fund	£45,000	0	0
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The report having been received and affirmed, a dividend of 5s. per share

and a bonus of 2s. 6d. per share, for the half-year, free from income tax, were declared. Thanks were voted to the directors, and the retiring members of the board were re-elected. The best thanks of the meeting were given to Mr. Bassett Smith, the manager, for his continued assiduity in conducting the business of the bank. The sum of £100 was placed at the disposal of the directors, for distribution among the charities of the town during the ensuing year.

BIRMINGHAM BANKING COMPANY.

THE half-yearly meeting of this bank has been held, and the dividend declared is 10s. per share, with a bonus of an equal amount.

NOTTINGHAM AND NOTTINGHAMSHIRE BANKING COMPANY.

THE annual meeting of the Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Banking Company took place on the 7th of August, when Mr. Bishop, the chairman, made the following statement relative to the position and business of the establishment:—"I am about to lay before you the twentieth annual report of our banking establishment; and, perhaps, at no former period during the last 20 years, when the bank was first established, has there been a year more trying, more full of anxiety, and even more alarming, than the one we have just passed through: for, since our last annual meeting, it is well known that our trade has been exposed to the greatest alterations and vicissitudes; our manufacturers have had to bear up against a precarious and unsteady demand; and our merchants have been in the greatest alarm as to whether or not they should realise remunerative prices. But in the midst of these difficulties, I am happy to say, there has been a remarkable absence of failures; and it would seem highly to the credit of the commercial classes in this district, that they discerned the coming pressure in time, and made their arrangements to meet it. Nothing shows the strain upon the commercial interests more than the rate of interest charged by the Bank of England. At our last meeting that rate was only 2½ or 3 per cent., but they have gradually advanced to 5½ per cent., and it has been at that rate during the last three months. The annual statement, which I have now the pleasure of laying before you, shows that the bank has been making a decided progress during the year, notwithstanding the disadvantages which have surrounded us. The dividend, which this time last year was 8s. 6d. per share, is now 9s. 6d.; the total amount of profit, which, last year was £11,974, is this year £13,776; the amount carried to the credit of the new reserve fund last year was £4,306, this year it is £4,895; and the total amount of the new reserve fund last year was £16,573 4s. 2d., whereas it is now £21,276 13s. 3d."

A dividend of 9s. 6d. per share having been declared, in accordance with the recommendation of the directors, the report was adopted.

COLONIAL BANK.

THE half-yearly meeting of this bank took place at the London Tavern, on the 11th of July, Mr. C. Marryatt in the chair, when the following report was read and unanimously adopted:—

The directors refer their proprietors with pleasure to the still growing profit of the business, there being a small increase over the last six months' statement, and a material one upon the corresponding half of 1853, while the accounts of the half-year just ended, so far as they have been received, show also a satisfactory aspect. On the other hand, it must now be borne in mind that there has been a recent depression in the prices of West India produce, and

that at the same time freights, insurance, and estates' supplies are much enhanced in cost, so that the planter has to contend against a double disadvantage, and this must of course lead the directors to exercise special caution. With reference to old dependencies the collections have kept pace with original anticipations. The directors, in conclusion, recommend to the proprietors to declare a dividend of 2 per cent. for the half-year ending the 31st of December last, free of income-tax, henceforward an increased charge, which will require £10,000, leaving £8,524 to be carried to the fund to meet bad debts, which will then amount to £134,460 :—

DEBTS.							£	s.	d.
Circulation	..	..	..	..	..	..	187,060	6	8
Deposits and other liabilities	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,028,993	1	0
Paid-up capital	..	..	..	..	..	..	500,000	0	0
Fund to meet bad debts	..	..	..	..	..	..	125,935	15	1
Profit	..	..	..	..	..	..	18,524	17	2
							£1,860,513 19 11		
ASSETS.							£	s.	d.
Specie	..	..	..	..	..	..	£204,849	9	3
Due to the bank in the colonies, on bills discounted and purchased, including those past due	..	..	..	..	..	..	766,385	11	11
Due to the bank in the colonies, on cash credits and current accounts	..	..	..	..	..	..	138,782	18	11
Due to the bank in London, on bills remitted, cash at bankers, &c.	..	..	..	..	..	..	741,244	12	6
Bank premises and furniture, in London and the colonies	..	..	..	..	..	..	9,251	7	4
							£1,860,513 19 11		

The Chairman, in proposing the dividend as recommended, stated that the altered position of affairs in the West Indies, with the recent reduction of the sugar duties, would render the exercise of caution necessary, and the directors were prepared to watch vigilantly the progress of affairs.

The dividend having been carried, the usual votes of thanks were agreed to.

SHEFFIELD AND HALLAMSHIRE BANK.

THE annual meeting of this bank was held on the 19th July, when the following report was unanimously adopted :—

"The last year has been one of great commercial prosperity. From this circumstance, the result of the bank's operations is highly satisfactory. The net profit is £14,171 9s. 1d., which exceeds that of the preceding year by £2,012 2s. 9d. The surplus fund now is £27,112 19s. 7d. The directors have concluded to pay a dividend after the rate of 7½ per cent. per annum, for the half-year ending 30th June, the same as the preceding half-year, and also a bonus for the year of 7s. 6d. per share. Together, these are equivalent to 9 per cent. per annum. The dividend and bonus may be received at the bank on or after Saturday, the 22nd instant. On deliberation, the directors resolved to pay a bonus, rather than increase the dividend. They are desirous not to increase the latter beyond such a rate as the bank will be able to pay even in adverse times. The income tax has been paid, and, as usual, will not be deducted from the dividend and bonus. The improvements in the bank premises, alluded to by the directors in their last report, have been commenced, and are progressing satisfactorily. The confidence of the directors in the future prosperity of the bank is unabated."

General Balance Sheet to 30th June, 1854.

LIABILITIES.			
Paid-up capital of £25 per share, on 5,014 shares	£125,350	0	0
Surplus fund	27,112	19	7
Due by the bank on current accounts, deposit receipts (including interest to this day), notes in circulation, and interest on bills in the bank ..	238,990	19	4
Dividend for the last half-year, after the rate of £7 10s. per cent. per annum, on the paid-up capital of £125,350	4,700	12	6
Bonus at the rate of 7s. 6d. per share, on 5,014 shares, being 1½ per cent. on the paid-up capital	1,880	5	0
	<u>£398,034</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>5</u>

ASSETS.			
Cash in the bank, bills discounted, balances owing by customers, and other securities	£394,719	16	5
Bank premises and furniture	3,315	0	0
	<u>£398,034</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>5</u>

Profit and Loss, 30th June, 1854.

DEBTOR.			
To dividend for the half-year ending 31st December, 1853, at the rate of £7 10s. per cent. per annum	£4,700	12	6
To dividend for the half-year ending 30th June, 1854, at the rate of £7 10s. per cent. per annum	4,700	12	6
To bonus of 7s. 6d. per share on 5,014 shares, being 1½ per cent. on the paid-up capital	1,880	5	0
To losses	1,759	2	0
To balance carried down	27,112	19	7
	<u>£40,153</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>7</u>

CREDITOR.			
By balance of unappropriated profits, 30th June, 1853	£25,982	2	6
By amount of profits after payment of expenses and income tax	14,171	9	1
	<u>£40,153</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>7</u>

By balance of unappropriated profits brought down, being surplus fund	£27,112	19	7
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ENGLISH, SCOTTISH AND AUSTRALIAN CHARTERED BANK.

THE half-yearly meeting of the shareholders in the English, Scottish and Australian Chartered Bank was held on the 30th of August, at the London Tavern; Mr. Charles Johnston in the chair.

The Secretary read the report and statement of accounts for the half-year, as follows :—

The directors have the pleasure of presenting to the shareholders a report of the proceedings of the corporation, and a statement of its affairs, embracing the transactions at the branches to 31st March, and at the home office to 30th June. They have to inform the proprietors that the requisite preliminary arrangements having been completed, and a local board formed at Melbourne, of gentlemen of mercantile experience in the colony, a branch was opened there on the 9th of January. The inspector has had under consideration the propriety of establishing additional branches in the colonies, but has determined, as the more prudent course for the present, and until the business of the two already formed is more developed, to confine his attention to them. It is also anticipated that circumstances will, ere long, enable him to open others on advantageous terms: in the meantime, however, he has appointed agents, in connection with the Sydney branch, for receiving deposits and issuing notes, and has announced his intention of opening sub-branches for similar objects in the colony of Victoria. The directors refer with satisfaction to the valuable services rendered by the members of the local boards, in exercising their influence on behalf of the corporation, and also in affording useful information to the managers in conducting the general business of the branches. They have also the gratification of stating that the inspector has continued to exercise unremitting watchfulness over the interests of the bank, and that the colonial officers have been very zealous in the discharge of the important duties devolving on them. It is satisfactory to the directors to be able to acquaint the proprietors, that the detailed weekly reports which they have received down to the 22nd May, from both the branches, show that the business of the bank, subsequently to the period to which the accounts now presented relate, has extended in a greatly-increased ratio, so as to give the best assurance of its prosperity.

The balance of profit and loss account, after providing for current expenses, amounts to	£6,418	6	7
From which the directors recommend a dividend at the rate of 4 per cent. per annum on £250,000, payable on the 7th September ..	£5,000	0	0
And in accordance with the plan for liquidating preliminary expenses, at the rate of £1,000 per annum, as announced in the last report, the directors have appropriated for that object.	500	0	0
And towards the formation of a reserved fund	918	6	7
	<u>£6,418</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>7</u>

Statement of Account for the half-year ending 30th June, 1854.

LIABILITIES.			
Paid-up capital	£295,322	0	0
Deposit on forfeited shares	140	0	0
Deposits	106,795	5	0
Bills payable, and other liabilities	84,372	19	6
Circulation	38,338	0	0
Balance of profit and loss	6,418	6	7
	<u>£531,386</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>1</u>

		ASSETS.	
Bills receivable, loans on security, cash at			
bankers, &c.	£390,856	19	2
Specie	120,041	11	1
Bank premises and furniture	9,407	14	9
Preliminary expenses	£9,685	7	1
Charges on coin sent to the branches	1,394	19	0
		11,080	6 1
		£531,386	11 1

The Chairman expressed the pleasure the directors had in meeting the proprietors, and laying before them the accounts of the bank for the past half-year. He stated that the prospects of the institution were of the most promising kind, adverting particularly to that passage in the report which related to the greatly increased ratio of progress since the closing of the accounts laid before the meeting. He explained the policy of the directors to be that of making their way with caution and safety, rather than desiring to establish a very large immediate business, believing such to be the likeliest way to secure ultimately the greatest profit and success; and assured them that every attention would be also unremittingly given to economy, in the management of the several establishments, and concluded by moving:—That the report and balance-sheet now read, be received and approved; that the dividend for the half-year ending the 30th June last, be made in accordance with the recommendation contained in the report, and that it be payable on and after the 7th September ultimo.

The resolution having been seconded by Mr. J. R. Thomson, a director,

Mr. Rudhall inquired the nature of the item in the account of £9,407 14s. 9d., under the head of "bank premises and furniture," which the chairman explained to include the whole of the company's outlay for premises and fitting up in London, Sydney, and Melbourne.

Mr. J. Wilson congratulated his brother shareholders on the state of their affairs, and expressed himself highly satisfied with the progress that had been made. He said that he would have been well satisfied if, in so early a stage, there had been no dividend at all; nevertheless, as it was offered to them, and had been fairly earned, he was sure they would all receive it with great pleasure. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. Du Croz, after expressing his general confidence in the personal character and ability of the directors, adverted to what had passed at the previous meeting respecting the amount of their remuneration, which, as fixed by the deed of settlement, appeared to him large while the bank was in its infancy, and asked the chairman to explain to the meeting how the matters stood in the present accounts.

The Chairman.—In reply to the honourable proprietor, I beg to say, although, if not asked, I should have been silent on the subject, that on this occasion the directors have waived entirely all remuneration. (Cheers.)

Mr. J. Wilson then moved that the best thanks of the meeting be given to the directors for the prudent and able manner in which they had managed the affairs of the bank. He said that, considering the great responsibility which would ultimately devolve upon the court of directors, from the magnitude of the funds which would no doubt soon be under their charge, the first consideration was to secure the services of men of ability and integrity in the management of their affairs, compared with which the question of remuneration was insignificant.

The resolution then passed unanimously, and the meeting adjourned.

Bank Meetings.

BANK OF BRAZIL.

Profit and Loss Account.

Amount of gross profit, as per statement	339,430	441
Interest paid, and sundry expenses	90,255	390
	249,175	051
Amount carried to the reserve fund, 6 per cent. ..	14,950	503
	234,224	548
Commission to the directors, 4 per cent.	9,368	981
Net profit ..	<u>Rs. 224,855</u>	<u>567</u>

Upon which a dividend of Rs.2,000 per share, or at the rate of 25.71 per cent. per annum, has been declared, leaving a balance of Rs.4,855 567 of undivided profits.

Statement of the Bank of Brazil, June 30th, 1854.

ASSETS.		
Shareholders—Unpaid capital	21,197,300	000
Bills discounted—		
With two resident firms ..	13,048,678	030
With one ditto	221,222	380
	<u>13,269,900</u>	<u>410</u>
Bills discounted upon deposits—		
Of specie, bullion, and commercial securities ..	1,635,339	914
Of other securities and merchandize	1,394,724	000
	<u>3,030,063</u>	<u>914</u>
Sundries—Amount of divers accounts, forming part of the assets of the bank	463,419	839
Profit and loss—interest and sundry expenses ..	90,255	390
Cash account—In coin—gold and silver	5,620,931	029
	<u>Rs. 43,671,870</u>	<u>582</u>
LIABILITIES.		
Capital—Amount as per charter	30,000,000	000
Issue—Amount of notes in circulation	8,642,700	000
Bills payable—Amount received upon interest ..	2,060,496	616
Accounts current—Balance of deposits	2,629,243	525
Profit and loss	339,430	441
	<u>Rs. 43,671,870</u>	<u>582</u>

(Signed) JOAO DUARTE LISBOA SERRA, *President.*

(Signed) JOAO FREDERICO MOLLER, *Chief Accountant.*

Rio de Janeiro, July 1st, 1854.

BANK OF BRAZIL.

THE general meeting was held on the 25th of July, when the president presented a report of the proceedings of the bank since its commencement of business, 20th April last. From this document are extracted the following items:—

Receipts in coin	..	..	..	\$36,289,599	
„ notes	..	..	..	9,000,000	
					\$45,289,599
Payments in coin	..	..	..	\$30,668,668	
„ notes	..	..	..	8,642,700	
					39,311,368
Balance in hand	..	..	..	Rs.5,978,231	
Bills discounted	..	..	..		16,114,897
„ „ upon various deposits	..	..	..		3,260,139
Total amount, in 2,450 bills	..	..	..	Rs.19,375,036	
Of these 2,450 bills, were under \$500	..			173	
from \$500 and less than 1,000	..			244	
„ 1,000 „ „ 5,000	..			848	
„ 5,000 „ „ 10,000	..			388	
„ 10,000 „ „ 15,000	..			532	
„ 15,000 and upwards	..			245	
The medium amount of these 2,450 bills was				Rs.7,908	178
The medium term of these 2,450 bills was				74 days.	

PAID-UP CAPITAL.					
1st call of 10 per cent	..	10th April	..	\$2,200,000	
2nd „ 10 „	..	30th „	..	2,200,000	
3rd „ 20 „	..	15th June	..	4,400,000	
4th „ 10 „ on account of	..	..	..	2,700	
					<u>88,802,700</u>

The dividend declared is 2 dollars per share, or at the rate of 25.71 per cent. per annum. The number of transfers made have been 935, representing 58,364 shares.

With reference to the liquidation of the previously existing banks, the report says, "The liquidation of the old banks proceeds with an exactness and regularity which reflect the highest credit upon their respective administrations and upon the commercial body of this city.

Statement of the Bank of Brazil.

ASSETS.

Bills discounted—					
With two resident firms	Rs.13,048,678	030			
With one resident firm	..	221,222	380		
				Rs.13,269,900	410
Bills discounted upon deposits—					
Of specie, bullion and commercial securities	..	Rs.1,635,339	914		
Of other securities and merchandise..	..	1,394,724	000		
				3,030,063	914
Deposits—Amount received in coin	..	..		63,159	128
Knowles and Foster, London—£4,000 remitted				34,285	714
Furniture—Its cost	..	..	..	7,264	340
Bank premises—Cost of the two buildings	..			385,710	657
Carry forward	..				

	Brought forward ..		
Shareholders—			
Amount of 150,000 shares			
@ Rs.200 ..	Rs.30,000,000	000	
Paid-up to this day ..	8,802,700	000	
			21,197,300 000
Cash account—Balance on hand, viz.—			
In coin, gold and silver ..	Rs.5,620,931	029	
In bank notes ..	357,300	000	
			5,978,231 029
			<u>Rs.43,938,915 192</u>

LIABILITIES.

Bills payable—Amount received upon interest ..	Rs.2,060,496	614
The late Bank of Brazil, in liquidation—Balance		
in its favour ..	833,646	742
The late Commercial Bank, in liquidation—		
Balance in its favour ..	291,932	666
Depositors—Amount of deposits..	66 159	128
Accounts current—Balance of deposits ..	1,440,504	989
Profit and loss—Sundry profits		
Less—Interest and current ex-	Rs.339,430	441
penses ..	90,255	390
	<u>Rs.249,175</u>	<u>051</u>
6 per cent. on Rs.249,175 054, for		
the reserve fund Rs.14,950 503		
4 per cent. on		
Rs.234,224 548,		
amount of di-		
rectors' remun-		
eration ..	9,368	981
	<u>24,319</u>	<u>484</u>
		224,855 567
Issue :—		
1st series, \$500 notes ..	Rs.5,150,000	000
200 ..	2,700,000	000
400 ..	1,150,000	000
		9,000,000 000
Directors' remuneration—From April 10th to this		
day ..	9,368	981
Reserve fund—6 per cent. of profits ..	14,950	503
Capital—Amount as per charter ..	30,000,000	000
	<u>Rs. 43,938,915</u>	<u>192</u>

THE PROVINCIAL FIRE AND LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY OF WALES.

THE second annual meeting of the members of this institution took place at the Music Hall, Wrexham, on Tuesday, the 21st of September, when the attendance of trustees, directors, and shareholders, was very numerous.

The proceedings commenced at 12 o'clock at noon, by Mr. A. Dillon, the

secretary, reading the notice calling the meeting. In the unavoidable absence of Sir Robert Henry Cunliffe, Bart., C.B., Acton Park, chairman of the board of directors, William Wright, Esq., Gresford Bank, as deputy, occupied the chair. The following report was then read:—"The directors feel great pleasure in meeting their brother shareholders upon this, the second anniversary of the company, and to be enabled to express their unqualified satisfaction at the result of the year's operations. In pursuance of the resolution of the shareholders at the last annual general meeting, extending the business of the company to life assurance, the directors at once took steps to effect that object; but considerable time being requisite to complete the necessary arrangements, the life branch of the company has only been in efficient operation for a few months. During this short period the directors have issued no less than 164 life policies, insuring the sum of £49,140, procuring in annual premiums the sum of £1,710 4s. 7d., besides which 21 proposals have been either declined or withdrawn. The receipts for fire premiums during the year amount to the sum of £1,832 15s. 3d., which, with government duty £1,568 6s. 3d., makes a total of £3,401 1s. 6d. The entire claims for fire losses incurred amount to £539 0s. 8d. The value of property under assurance by the company amounts to upwards of a million and a quarter sterling, and the directors trust that it will be deemed a sufficient proof of the judgment and care exercised by them in the acceptance of risks offered, that the losses for the twelve months should amount to so little. These results clearly justify the promoters in their opinion that there was a favourable opening in Wales and the bordering counties for the establishment of a fire and life insurance company, and that a sound and respectable office, carried out with spirit and good management, would be nobly supported. Whether as to the extent and character of the business transacted by the company, or the moderate expense incurred in establishing and conducting it, the directors believe that the Provincial Insurance Company will bear favourable comparison with any similar institution; and they feel, therefore, that the office is in every respect deserving the support of the community. In the allotment of the new shares created by the proprietors last year, the directors have exercised the greatest care and economy, and they are therefore still in a position to grant shares to influential persons resident in districts where they consider it desirable the connections of the company should be extended. Since the last general meeting, the directors have appointed a very large number of agents, and they have caused as many of the previously appointed agents as possible to be personally visited from the board, with the view to assisting them in putting forward the claims of the company in their respective districts. The list of shareholders, which at the last annual meeting numbered 400 individuals, now numbers upwards of 500, and the premiums received upon new shares issued amount to £234 17s. 6d. The directors are strongly impressed with the importance of strengthening their position in South Wales, where, however, they have already a numerous and wealthy proprietary. To facilitate their doing so, as well as to assist them in extending the company in desirable districts in England, they have lately, with the valuable co-operation of influential gentlemen in London connected with both divisions of the principality, opened branch offices in the metropolis; and the directors have no doubt that the London branch (which is conducted at a very small expense) will prove a valuable feeder to the company. The directors have to acknowledge the warm assistance afforded to them by their brother shareholders, many of whom have gratuitously devoted much of their valuable time and labour in promoting the interests of the institution. The directors hope that all the shareholders will exert themselves to bring business to the office, for in exact proportion to the efforts of the executive, and the support rendered by the shareholders, will the company's shares increase in value. The directors

recommend that interest at the rate of £5 per cent. per annum (free of income tax) be paid to the shareholders on the paid-up capital of the company. The directors cannot conclude this report without expressing their sense of the activity, zeal, and cordial co-operation of the very large number of earnest and influential persons who represent the company as its agents in England and Wales, and who are entitled to the best thanks of the shareholders."

A statement of account, showing the flourishing condition of the society, was then presented.

The Chairman moved the adoption of the report, adding that the directors would be happy to answer any questions which shareholders might desire to put, and to afford every information as to the operations of the society. (Applause.)

Mr. T. T. Griffith seconded the resolution, and remarked on the steady success of the undertaking. Not only was the fire department making satisfactory progress, but the introduction of life assurance had also been attended with the most beneficial results. (Hear, hear.) Life assurance differed in the degree of its importance from fire insurance, for when a man sacrificed his present interests and comforts, and, from the noblest of motives, applied his means, in proportion to his income, to make a provision for those who followed him, there was nothing that would try his feelings so much as the doubt that, when his widow and family, depending upon his policy of insurance, would be told on claiming it that there were no effects; whilst on the other hand, when life assurances were conducted on sound and safe principles, nothing was better calculated to inspire confidence in the public mind. (Cheers.) By the exercise of caution any such evil could be avoided, and therefore it was their duty to encourage and foster the extension of the principle. The motion was then carried unanimously.

The re-election of directors and auditors having been agreed to,

Mr. R. C. Rawlins, of Hope Mills, then proposed that the thanks of the proprietors be presented to Mr. T. T. Griffith, the consulting surgeon, and to the medical examiners for their valuable services during the past year. (Cheers.) The meeting would feel how fully entitled the medical officers were to this vote, when he mentioned that though it would be out of the question to ground anything upon the fact that no casualty had occurred among the lives accepted, yet it was proper to state that deaths occurred among those rejected, and that the decision of the board in declining those proposals was grounded upon the medical reports. While alluding to the rapid progress of the institution in both departments, it was necessary to state that the one connected with fire experienced the incubus of an enormous government duty. (Hear, hear.) He however hoped that when the untoward events which surrounded the Chancellor of the Exchequer had passed away, this tax, certainly one of the most monstrous on the list, would be repealed. (Hear.) Statists showed that while Great Britain insured about 850 millions annually, France insured 1,400 millions, a fact evidently illustrating the restrictive influence of the impost.

Mr. Joseph Clark seconded this resolution, which was put by the chairman, and unanimously agreed to.

Mr. Griffith, on behalf of the medical officers, thanked the meeting for these gratifying marks of confidence.

Mr. Charles Hughes, Wrexham, proposed the next resolution, to the following effect:—"That the thanks of this company be given to those land-owners of Wales, and the bordering counties, and especially to those gentlemen who came forward to act as trustees of the institution, for the support rendered by them in inducing their tenants and others to insure in the company." He observed that the progress of the company's business, particularly with respect to insurances of farming stock, was very considerable.

In fact, its extent was unusual, considering the present contests for insurance business, and this he thought would be readily admitted on examination of the amount of farming stock insured by twenty-four London and provincial offices, some of which were established so far back as 1714, and some as recently as 1852, the year in which the Welsh Provincial Society was established. It appeared that the business of the Welsh company exceeded that of any one of those twenty-four societies. (Cheers.) In 1853, the Welsh Provincial Insurance Company had insured not less than £266,838 of farming stock. One instance excepted, the amount of farming stock insured in the other societies referred to scarcely exceeded one-half that of this company, whilst several of them were considerably below. This comparison afforded one of the best evidences of the reception the society had met with in Wales and the border counties, and the success was in a great measure attributable to the landed proprietors of those districts, who had come forward most readily to exercise their influence in favour of the native society, by acting as its trustees. (Hear, hear.) Another matter of gratulation was the fact that this company stood more favourably than other offices, as to the amount of receipts compared with the expenditure, during the two first years of their formation. It would be needless, under such circumstances, to impress upon proprietors generally, the power they possessed of still further extending the business of the institution, by their personal exertions. (Applause.)

Mr. Thomas Heywood briefly seconded the resolution, which, having been put by the chairman, was agreed to.

Sir Watkin W. Wynn, Bart., returned thanks for the terms in which Mr. Hughes had proposed the resolution, and for the hearty approval of the meeting. He felt great pleasure in using whatever influence he might possess, in favour of the Welsh Insurance Society. To induce habits of prudence and forethought amongst the people, was a worthy and most desirable object, and these societies, when conducted upon a good system, tended in an eminent degree to that end. (Cheers.) How satisfactory was it, then, to find in this country an institution so deserving the confidence of the inhabitants. (Renewed Cheers.) He congratulated the directors and managers upon the unparalleled successes of the company. He regretted the unavoidable absence on this occasion of Sir Robert Cunliffe. No person was better fitted to be at the head of the board of directors than the hon. Baronet, whose position, and the good he had effected amongst his fellow countrymen, commanded the respect and confidence of all men. (Cheers.) As regarded himself, he (Sir Watkin), could only add that he should always be glad, whether as a trustee or a landowner in the country, to forward the interest of this admirable institution. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. Tench moved the following resolution:—"That the thanks of the proprietors be presented to the directors, and that the sum of £150 be paid to them for their services during the past year." After hearing the report, and the other statistical data, explanatory of the state of the society, he had no hesitation in saying that he moved this resolution with real pleasure. They were aware that the directors had, for the first year, given their valuable services gratuitously. From his experience as a railway director, he was enabled to bear testimony to the care and responsibility inseparable from the office; and he sincerely believed that the sum now proposed, was the smallest that could reasonably be offered for services so well performed. (Cheers.)

Mr. P. M. Evans, Holywell, seconded the proposal, which was carried *nem con.*

The chairman, on behalf of the board, thanked the meeting for their gratifying appreciation of the services rendered by the directors. It had been their constant aim to promote the interests of the institution, and he

trusted their endeavours during the ensuing year would likewise meet with the confidence of the shareholders at the next annual meeting.

The Rev. David Williams, Nannerch Rectory, moved, in a flattering address, a vote of thanks to the secretary, Mr. Dillon. (Hear, hear.)

The chairman said that as deputy chairman of the board, he had ample opportunities of seeing and appreciating what Mr. Dillon had done for this company: and he could assure the meeting that the services of that gentleman were of such value that they could not be overrated.

Mr. Dillon begged leave to return his sincere acknowledgments for the compliment so handsomely paid him at the instance of the reverend gentleman. His services were entirely secondary to those of the board of directors, with whom he felt an honour and a pleasure to co-operate. In carrying out the instructions, he was proud to say he was associated with a staff of officers second to none in the kingdom. (Cheers.) Previously to the formation of the present, the possibility of establishing such a company in Wales had been doubted by many persons of acknowledged judgment and experience. It was difficult to conceive the exact reasons upon which those doubts were founded, inasmuch as Wales presented all the elements necessary to the success of such an institution. (Hear.) Hitherto, indeed, the inhabitants had been accustomed to look up to England and Scotland for the means of effecting life and fire insurances, but the effort since made, to form a national institution in Wales, had proved entirely successful. (Applause.) Mr. Dillon concluded by thanking the directors and the shareholders, both on the part of himself and the other officers of the society.

After other routine business, the meeting separated.

Communications.

To the Editor of the Bankers' Magazine.

THE NEW STAMP ACT.—TIME OF COMING INTO OPERATION.

—CLAUSES 3, 6, 7, 8, 11 & 12.—OPINION OF SOLICITOR TO INLAND REVENUE.

SIR,—In the remarks on the New Stamp Act, contained in your last, you state, "the Act comes into operation from and after the 10th day of October," and I know there are many people who take the same view. Acts of Parliament are not always written so that business men may understand them. My view is, that the act came into full operation on its passing; the duties named in the schedule being by the act deferred till from and after the 10th October.

I presume clause 3 includes foreign promissory notes, as well as bills of exchange, negotiated in this country. I am afraid much loss and inconvenience will arise. I frequently receive one part of a set a fortnight or more before I get the others, and by this act I cannot negotiate one part till the arrival of the whole set. When payable here, it does not so much matter, for I presume I can affix full duty to one of the set, and treat it as a solo bill, but when payable abroad, I have, according to commercial precaution, to send the different parts by different vessels; and according to this act, I cannot endorse one till I have the whole set.

There exists some diversity of opinion whether a cheque can by any possibility travel beyond fifteen miles from the bank at which it is payable, unstamped

(of course being legally issued within that distance). I presume, if I put it into my pocket and travel a hundred miles and back, that does not render a stamp necessary before I receive the money.

On receiving a cheque payable at more than fifteen miles distant, I require a stamp affixed, unless my customer assures me he received it within the fifteen miles of the place where payable a few days ago. I received for collection, from a customer of mine, seventeen cheques on ten different London banks; I remarked, they required stamps (presuming them to have been remitted by post); to which he responded, he had been on his London journey, and received them there, but had not time to collect himself, or to take them to my London agents for them to collect and place to my account for his credit; on which explanation I received them without stamps, and they have all been duly paid.

On receiving by post cheques for payment from distant banks, I presume they act with the same caution as myself, and pay them.

If there exists any doubt upon the subject, I annex extracts from a communication received from the office of Inland Revenue, signed "Thomas Keogh, secretary."

I am, sir,

Bristol, September 20th, 1854.

A SUBSCRIBER.

EXTRACTS.

"An unstamped cheque received within fifteen miles of the bank on which it is drawn may lawfully be carried by the party so receiving the same to any place beyond that distance, and will not require a stamp to enable his banker there to collect the amount from the banker on whom it is drawn.

"The sending of an unstamped cheque by post or otherwise to any place beyond the distance of fourteen miles from the bank on which it is drawn, is illegal. The person sending the cheque and the person receiving the same in payment or as a security, or negotiating or circulating such cheque at any place beyond the said distance, are all equally liable to penalty.

"It is not incumbent on a banker or other person receiving or paying an unstamped cheque, to inquire whether it has circulated beyond the said distance of fifteen miles.

"An *Inland* bill cannot be legally stamped by having an adhesive stamp affixed to it.

"Two one-shilling adhesive bill stamps on a bill drawn abroad requiring a 2d. stamp, would be legal; but both the stamps must be dated and cancelled in the manner directed by the act."

P.S.—In reply to "A Country Banker," I believe the 11th section of the New Stamp Act was framed for the purpose of preventing cheques or drafts resembling notes being issued and circulated as notes. It does not interfere with drafts or cheques on London or elsewhere being used as letters of credit payable to order. I am surprised any bankers should have rendered necessary such a section. I am quite opposed to the limits imposed by 7 & 8 Vic., c. 32; but whilst such is law, I think it should be obeyed; the sooner it is repealed the better.

[We are much obliged to our correspondent for this interesting communication. The act came into force immediately it passed, except as regarded the duties, and we were in error in fixing the 10th of October as the time it came into force for all purposes. The authorities at Somerset House cannot make or expound law. Their views may control their own proceedings, and are useful as being more likely to be correct than the views of less experienced parties; but when questions arise between private persons, it is the courts of justice which will decide them, and their decision will not be influenced by the construction which the Stamp Office officials have put upon the act. Hence

one of the mischievous effects of passing incomprehensible statutes. It is difficult to abstain from asking where the bankers and merchants who sit in Parliament could have been when this measure passed?]

CANCELLING ADHESIVE STAMPS ON DRAFTS OR ORDERS.

SIR,—I notice in *The Times* of 9th instant a letter from a correspondent alluding to the possibility of the revenue being defrauded by parties disposed to be dishonest, in making use of adhesive stamps affixed to bankers' cheques a second time, after the cheques have been given up to their customers.

Without calling into question the probability of such a practice, at least, being carried on to any considerable extent, I would beg to suggest a simple, and at the same time effectual remedy, and one which I have adopted at the branch with which I have the honour to be connected.

I presume most bankers keep an OFFICE stamp for the purpose of stamping cheques, notes, &c. I make use of this stamp in cancelling the adhesive stamps, thereby destroying the practicability of their being again made use of.

I am, sir, your obedient servant,

YOUNG STAGER.

11th September, 1854.

P.S.—I would observe that I do not obliterate, by my practice, the initials of the party whose duty it is to cancel the stamp before negotiating it.

CHEQUE DRAWN 15 MILES—ENDORSEMENT ON CHEQUE.

SIR,—Would you favour me with a reply in the *Bankers' Magazine* to the following.

Your's obediently,

E. G.

Bury St. Edmund's, August 25th, 1854.

1st. Can a bank receive an unstamped cheque drawn upon another bank at a greater distance than 15 miles?

2nd. A stamped cheque made payable to A. B., and endorsed by him to C. D.—is the endorsement of C. D. *absolutely necessary*?

[1. Any person knowingly receiving a cheque issued (not drawn) more than 15 miles from the bank upon which it is drawn, is liable to a penalty of £20. See *Shaw on Cheques*, p. 201. By 17 and 18 Vic., c. 83, sects. 7 and 8, the circulation of cheques more than 15 miles from the bank upon which they are drawn is prohibited under a £50 penalty, unless they have a penny stamp affixed to them, which may be affixed after they are issued, but within the distance.

2. We think that an endorsement purporting to be that of C. D. is absolutely necessary if the cheque was payable to order; but, if payable to bearer, we think the point too doubtful to give a confident opinion. The subject has been discussed in these pages.]

THE 15 MILE CIRCULATION CLAUSES OF THE NEW STAMP ACT.

Vic. 17 and 18, c. 83, sects. 7 and 8.

SIR,—May we request your immediate attention to the above?

It affects the daily transactions of bankers, and renders it unsafe to issue anything but stamped cheques.

We are, &c.,

B.

[A literal construction of these sections would certainly render the ordinary

business of a bank unsafe. We suppose, however, they will receive a reasonable construction, and even then, when applied to practice, many difficulties may be foreseen. We can point out some. Suppose a cheque to be drawn within the legal distance and then circulated beyond it, and returned within it, without any stamp. What is to be done then? How is knowledge of the erratic wanderings of the document to be acquired? Again, a cheque may be sent in a letter to a party whose usual abode is within the distance, and that letter may be forwarded to him when temporarily absent beyond the distance. What is to be done then? Is such a party liable to a penalty? Our readers may be able to suggest other instances of difficulty.]

DAYS OF GRACE ON BILLS PAYABLE AT SIGHT.

SIR,—May I trouble you for a reply, in your next number, to the following:

A bill drawn at sight, is it payable on presentation, or can the parties on whom it is drawn claim three days' grace?

Yours respectfully,

A BANKER'S CLERK.

September 19th, 1854.

[Whether days of grace are allowed on bills payable at sight, seems yet undecided. The weight of authority has been considered to incline in favour of such an allowance. "Byes on Bills," 152.]

RECEIPT ON BANKERS' DRAFTS.

SIR,—Will you kindly inform me if it is necessary that the party presenting a draft for payment, should receipt the same on the back, as he would be required to do upon a bill of exchange,—I mean a draft drawn in the country, payable to order. One banker tells me it is necessary that the draft should be receipted, another banker tells me that he would incur a penalty were he to receipt a draft payable to order.

I am, sir, your obedient servant,

B.

September 20th, 1854.

[We do not think a receipt necessary. If given on an unstamped draft it would probably require the penny receipt stamp.]

Notes of the Month.

UNCLE SAM'S STRONG BOX.—The chest now contains over 29,000,000 dols. all in specie. Of this amount, on the 29th of May, 8,452,812 dols. was in the sub-treasury at New York; 7,690,854 dols. in the Philadelphia Mint; 4,196,858 dols. in the sub-treasury at Boston; 2,565,821 dols. in the sub-treasury at St. Louis; 2,081,849 dols. in ditto at New Orleans; 1,701,821 dols. in ditto at Philadelphia; 500,000 dols. in ditto at San Francisco; and the remainder in the sub-treasuries and branch mints of the United States at other points.—*Daily Alta California*.

A SPECULATION IN ERIE.—I have done it! Done what? Why sold out my Erie. Realised, as the brokers and speculators say. I had idealised long enough. Bought at 80, and dreamed of par, or, according to the knowing ones, 120 in less than two years. At any rate, a good investment. Regular dividends of 8 per cent. per annum, which at 80 would be just 10 per cent. Went home elated.

Stuck the certificate in the india-rubber band, saying, "regular dividend of 8 per cent., and a large margin for a rise." Felt vertically elongated. Next morning, rose early. Thought the newspaper carrier uncommonly late. He always is late when important news is expected. At last he came. Took the paper out of his hand, and turned to the stock list: Erie, last sales, 81. Good! She goes up. A hundred and twenty in less than two years! Went out and met Mordecai Ben Jezreen, the Jew broker, from Amsterdam. "What do you think of Erie?" "Oh! it ish goot—great roat wide guage—makesh five hundred dousand a month. It will be par in vone year." "Good again," thought I. "A Jew never mistakes in money matters. Abraham was the very first man who made a cash bargain. He bought a grave of the sons of Heth, and weighed out the silver for it. His posterity from that very day quit land speculations, and went into stocks. Jew knows!" "Par in one year," Mordecai says. Walked down to Wall-street. Went clear through from Trinity to the East river. Overheard all sorts of commercial and monetary terms:—dollars—cash on time—short—fall—margin—tight—operators for a rise—(thought that good)—interest—principal—bear—bull, &c., &c. Went home and waited for the evening paper. It came about 4. Looked at the stock list. Erie 78. Eheu! What is the matter? "Arrival of the *Baltic*." Bank of England short of coin. Erie therefore down to 78. Railroad riot at Erie, Pa. Track torn up. Travel interrupted. Peanuts, pies and gingerbread. Loss of at least 25,000 dols. to the company. Erie goes down to 73. Think of selling out, but can't afford to lose 87 on each share. That would be 210 dols. dead loss on 30 shares. Advised to hold on. Difficulty soon over. Touched bottom. Conclude to hold on a few days longer. Next morning telegraphic despatch from Halifax brings a week's later news from Europe. "Position of Austria and Prussia still doubtful." Erie goes to 70. Wont look at the stock list for a week. Looked at stock list next morning. Erie down to 67. Thunder! where is the thing going to? Took the certificate out of the india-rubber band, and walked right down to Wall-street, determined to realise. Met a bull. He said I had better hold on. Changed my mind, went home, and put the certificate in the india-rubber band. Looked at the stock list that afternoon. Erie advanced 1. Good! The tide has turned. Conclude to sell out at 85. Several weeks go by, and Erie hangs at about 68. "Arrival of the *Atlantic*." Lord Somebody had said in Parliament that men yet unborn would shoulder their muskets in the present war. Erie went down to 65. Began to feel mad. Talked with an old friend, worth a half million, all in bonds and mortgages except 10 shares of Erie. Told me to put it away and think nothing about it till it reached par. That was the way he did. He wondered that I, who had nothing in the world but 30 shares in the Erie, should be so annoyed about it. Took his advice as far as I could. Put it away, but thought of it ten hours out of every twelve. A week passed. Schuyler fraud fell like a thousand bombshells, or hissed like a million fiery flying serpents in Wall-street. Erie went down, down, down to 50. Murder! Why didn't I sell at 60, 65, 70? Why did I buy at all? Because, in imagination at least,

All the demon made his full descent,
In one abundant shower of cent. per cent.

That's why. Well, after all, 50 is a round sum, and just half-way to par. It looks as if it would stop at 50. At any rate, can't think of selling out now. Should lose just 900 dols. by the "operation." Watched the stock list eagerly as ever. Not satisfied to wait for the morning and evening papers. Must go into Wall-street, and read the list of sales on the brokers' books. Erie stands about 50. Good! The crisis has reached a focus. Think of buying out at 50 to bring down the average. Tell it to a friend. "Don't do it, my dear sir; don't do it." Took his advice. Next day a panic. Income bonds due in February. Who didn't know that before? Erie down to 47. Scared outright. Went home, and took the certificate out of the india-rubber band, and ran down to Wall-street. "Sell—me—that—for—cash." "Any limit, sir?" "No,—Cash." In two hours, I had the stuff for 30 shares at 43. Went home. Knocked a brick out of the wall and deposited. I did it. Fact!—*New York Commercial Advertiser*.

THE SCOTCH BANKS.—A bill has been introduced by the Government to amend the Scotch Banking Law, by establishing the right of joint-stock banks in that country to exercise a lien over the shares of any of their proprietors who may be indebted to them, provided such shares shall be sold and accounted for within six months from the date of their being impounded.

ESTATE OF MESSRS. COLLMANN AND STOLTERFOHT.—A further instalment of 1s. 6d. in the pound, making altogether 12s. 9d., has just been announced by Mr. Coleman, the accountant, under the estate of Messrs. Collmann and Stolterfoht, who failed in January, 1853, in consequence of the corn speculations and forgeries of Ferdinand Pries. Their direct liabilities amounted to £153,811, and the realization of the assets has more than confirmed the estimate originally put forward, irrespective of anything that may yet be recovered of the large claims on Pries' estate.

BANK MOVEMENTS.

A new joint-stock banking company has been formed at Rio de Janeiro, with illimited responsibility on the part of the managers. The capital is Rs. 6,000,000 dols., in shares of 1,000 dols. each, not transferable, until the whole be paid up, with the power of increasing the amount to 12,000,000 dols. when the interests of the proprietors shall warrant such an increase. The company, under the title of the firm of "Mauá Mac Gregor and Co." will, it is understood, commence business on 1st September.

The directors of the Bank of Australasia have just declared a dividend and *bonus* for the half year of £3 10s. per share, payable on and after the 17th of October.

The directors of the Ionian Bank have declared a dividend at the rate of 5 per cent., payable on and after the 10th of October.

It is stated that the directors of the Yorkshire Banking Company have considerably resolved to pay the income tax on the salaries of their staff of officers.

Reviews.

Anderson's Mercantile Correspondence. Effingham Wilson, Royal Exchange. THE publisher has issued a revised and enlarged edition of this work, which is in every respect a handbook for the counting-house. The varied nature of the information relative to commercial pursuits, as illustrated by the specimens of correspondence, should secure for it an extensive circulation. Not the least interesting feature of the book is the appendix of mercantile technicalities.

Fenn's Compendium of the English and Foreign Funds, with the Statements of the Debts and Revenues of all Nations, &c. Effingham Wilson, Royal Exchange.

A NEW edition (the fourth) of this useful work of reference for bankers, merchants and stockbrokers, has been prepared under the superintendence of Mr. H. Ayres, and furnishes full information on all the points introduced. In its revised shape it will be found much more complete than formerly; every leading kind of investment, including joint-stock bank and railway shares, being specifically described. The publisher has obtained permission to dedicate the present volume to the Committee of the Stock Exchange.

Monetary Intelligence.

REVIEW OF THE MONEY MARKET FOR THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER, 1854.

ATTENTION has been so wholly absorbed by the expedition to the Crimea, that little else has been thought of. Operations in the Baltic having apparently been closed for the season by the bombardment of Bomarsund, the movements of the allied forces in the Black Sea have naturally occupied the chief consideration. The successful landing of the enormous body of troops intended to be employed in the attack upon Sebastopol has created confidence in the result of the enterprise, although it is fraught with difficulties which few appear inclined to estimate. In the absence of exciting intelligence from other quarters, financial affairs have exhibited no material alteration. The funds and the majority of negotiable securities continue to be maintained with steadiness, but the highest prices have not been supported. With regard to money, there has been a good demand for it both at the Stock Exchange and out of doors, and present rates will, it is expected, be supported. On Consols $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. is freely paid, and the bill brokers will not negotiate first-class paper under 5 per cent. The allowance for deposits has again in some cases been increased to $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. Although large arrivals of gold have taken place from Australia and America, they have not greatly augmented the stock in the Bank of England. The activity in the demand for accommodation is visible, by a further increase in the private securities held by that establishment.

The general quietude of business in the city during the month has been a common topic of remark; and, the weather being favourable, many parties have seized the opportunity of taking recreation. There is also a strong desire manifested to shorten the hours of attendance, particularly on Saturdays, and this arrangement will shortly be almost universally adopted.

The entire range in Consols has not exceeded $1\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., and prices have improved from $94\frac{1}{2}$ until 96 was all but reached. After some fluctuation, the quotation has settled down at $95\frac{3}{4}$. Exchequer Bills show firmness, with a moderate amount of transactions.

The additional million of the Turkish loan was appropriated to the original subscribers of the £2,000,000 at 80, on the 16th instant, and the proceeds of the further payments have been transmitted to Constantinople. The quotation of the scrip is now consequently marked ex. new, and has ranged from $2\frac{1}{2}$ to $3\frac{1}{2}$ premium. The present price is about 3 premium ex. new, equal to $4\frac{1}{2}$ according to the old quotation. There is still £2,000,000 of the stock to be issued.

The agents of the Buenos Ayres government have notified the payment of one-half of a semi-annual dividend, on the coupon due the 12th of January, 1829, the small monthly remittance made on account of the debt having accumulated to the required amount.

In foreign securities generally there has been very little done. A variation of an unimportant character has taken place in some descriptions, but nothing has occurred to affect the average character of the market.

Railway shares presented an improved appearance in the middle of the month, when they were at their highest. The operators for the rise have, however, now to contend with the increased demand for money, and rather than pay extravagant rates of continuation they have, in several cases, closed their accounts.

Little alteration has occurred in banking or miscellaneous shares, but Crystal Palace are heavy at about $2\frac{3}{4}$ on £5 paid.

The produce markets have been dull. Tea has slightly improved, owing to the interruption of trade in China; and rice, through the advance in grain, is likewise better. No extensive transactions have taken place in sugar or coffee.

ENGLISH FUNDS.

		Price on August 29.	Highest.	Lowest.	Price on September 28.
Consols	..	94½ to ½	95½	94½	95½
Exchequer bills' average	..	par to 3s. pm.	9s. pm.	par.	6 to 9 pm.

FOREIGN STOCKS.

Brazilian	..	101	102	101	101
Buenos Ayres	..	—	57	54	55
Chilian	..	—	105	104	103
Dutch	..	62½	62½	61½	61½
Mexican	..	24½	25½	24½	24½
Peruvian, 4½ per cent.	..	71	75 ex. div.	69½ ex. div.	70½
Portuguese, 4 per cent.	..	—	42	40	40½
Russian	..	100½	100½	99½ ex. div.	99
Spanish	..	37	38½	36½	37½

RAILWAY SHARES.

Brighton	..	105	106	103	103
Caledonian	..	64½	67½	63½	65
Eastern Counties	..	11½	12½ ex. div.	11½	11½
Great Northern	..	86	90 ex. div.	84½	87½
Great Western	..	73½	79 ex. div.	72½ ex. div.	72½
London and North Western	..	102½	105½	101½	101½
Midland	..	69½	73	68½	70
Lancashire and Yorkshire ..	..	70½	76½	69½	71½
North Staffordshire	..	13½	13½	13½	13½
South Eastern	..	65½	68	63½ ex. div.	63½
South Western	..	82	86½	82	83
York, Newcastle and Berwick	..	75½	79½	75½	78½
York and North Midland ..	..	55½	57	54½	55
Northern of France	..	34½	35	34	34½
East Indian	..	22½	23½	22½	23

STATE OF TRADE.

THERE has been less activity in the manufacturing districts, the state of credit having interfered with the successful progress of business. Great depression was occasioned in Manchester and Liverpool, by the failures in the middle of the month, but confidence has since been partially restored.

THE GRAIN TRADE.

ALTHOUGH the result of the harvest has proved as gratifying as could well have been anticipated, the fall which occurred at the end of August was not of lengthened duration. It is estimated that the decline from highest prices was then equal to about 25s. per quarter, but a recovery of 10s. has been occasioned by purchases for the continent, principally Belgium and France. The American advices have also partially influenced the market, and an expectation is entertained that present quotations will at least be temporarily supported. We have yet, however, to learn the real yield of the United States crop, and the proportion that Canada is supposed to be able to export. The trade has been steady, without material variation, the last few days.

THE *Gazette* returns for England and Wales have been—

Week ended 1854.	Wheat. Qrs. sold.	Weekly Average.	Six Weeks' Average.	Duty.	Corresponding Six Weeks Last Year.
Aug. 26.....	58,555	63 7	66 0	1 0	51 10
Sept. 2.....	56,954	62 3	64 5	1 0	51 7
" 9.....	59,121	59 4	62 8	1 0	51 11
" 16.....	70,127	52 5	60 8	1 0	52 5

The importations since the harvest of 1853 have been:—

	Wheat. Qrs.	Other Grain. Qrs.	Total. Qrs.
Fifty-six weeks ended 16th Aug.	5,839,484	3,946,268	9,785,752
Four weeks ended 13th Sept.	121,440	223,617	345,057
	5,960,924	4,169,885	10,130,809
And the <i>weekly averages</i> have been—			
Fifty-six weeks ended 16th Aug.	104,000	70,000	174,000
Four weeks ended 13th Sept.	30,000	56,000	86,000
	Less 74,000	14,000	88,000

EAST INDIA REMITTANCES.

AMOUNT OF BILLS DRAWN FOR.

From the 25th of August to the 8th Sept.	Bengal	£150,305	13	0
	Madras	21,529	9	0
	Bombay ..	979	3	4
From the 0th to the 23rd of September	Bengal ...	104,792	1	2
	Madras ...	22,791	19	3
	Bombay ..	774	3	2
		£301,172	8	11

MONTHLY CHRONOLOGY.

Aug. 29.—Official notification received of the blockade of the White Sea.

September 4.—Notification of the failures of Messrs. Peck and Bloodgood, and Alfred Edwards and Co., of New York.

4.—Rejection by Russia of the last propositions of Austria.

7.—Marshal St. Arnaud announces the destination of the allied troops to be Sebastapool.

8.—Marshal Baraquay d'Hilliers left the Baltic on his return to France.

11.—Count Coronini entered Bucharest on the 6th, at the head of the Austrian army.

14.—Evacuation of Ibralia and Galatz by the Russians.

14.—Failure of Messrs. Scott, Richmond and Co., of Manchester, announced.

15.—Victory obtained by Schamyl over the Russians at Tiflis.

15.—Messrs. Currie, Dale and Co. suspended payment.

18.—Failure of Messrs. Deane, Youle and Co., of Liverpool.

21.—Intelligence received of the landing of 25,000 English, 25,000 French, and 8,000 Turkish troops, in the Crimea on the 14th.

21.—Failure of Mr. A. W. Park, of Manchester, notified.

23.—Information received of the suspension of Messrs. Lukin and Skuratoff, of Moscow.

NOTICES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Several communications shall have the requisite attention at the earliest possible moment. All letters, except they involve important questions, should be sent by the 20th of the month.

S. M. (Glasgow).—The contribution is under consideration.

R. B. (Stockton).—No accurate information can be obtained, and the advertising brokers are not to be trusted. They generally hold securities for which they are anxious to find a market.

VERITAS, (Belfast), may rely on the statistics alluded to, as they were prepared by a first-class authority, and were subsequently checked by other parties.

JUNIOR CLERK, (Moorgate Street).—The notice must, as a matter of course, be given, otherwise the legality of the claim is likely to be disputed.

THE ENGLISH FUNDS.—Daily Prices from 26th August, 1854, to 26th September, 1854, inclusive.

JOINT-STOCK BANKS. RAILWAY SHARES.

JOINT-STOCK BANKS.

FOREIGN STOCKS (27th September.)				
	£ 40 ab.,	£ 40	0 pd.	85
Australasia	-	-	-	-
British North American	-	-	-	-
Commercial of London	-	-	-	-
Colonial	-	-	-	-
London and Westminster	-	-	-	-
London Joint Stock	-	-	-	-
Oriental Bank	-	-	-	-
Provincial of Ireland	-	-	-	-
National of Ireland	-	-	-	-
National Provincial of England	-	-	-	-
South Australian	-	-	-	-
Union of Australia	-	-	-	-
Union of London	-	-	-	-
London and County	-	-	-	-
London Chartered of Australia	-	-	-	-
English, Scottish, and Australia	-	-	-	-
Bank of India, China, and	-	-	-	-
Australia	-	-	-	-
New South Wales	-	-	-	-
Brazilian Bonds, 5 per Cent.	-	-	-	-
Chilian Bonds, 6 per Cent.	-	-	-	-
Danish 5 per Cent.	-	-	-	-
Mexican 3 per Cent.	-	-	-	-
Peruvian 4½ per Cent.	-	-	-	-
Portuguese Bonds, 4 per Cent.	-	-	-	-
Russian Bonds, 1822, 5 per Cent.	-	-	-	-
Ditto, 4½ per Cent.	-	-	-	-
Spanish Bonds 3 per Cent.	-	-	-	-
Ditto, 3 per Cent. Deferred	-	-	-	-
(Dividends on the above payable in London.)	-	-	-	-
Austrian 3 per Cent.	-	-	-	-
Belgian Bonds, 4½ per Cent.	-	-	-	-
Dutch 2½ per Cent.	-	-	-	-
Ditto 4 per Cent. Loan	-	-	-	-
French 4½ per Cent. at Paris, Sept. 27 98½. 80c.	-	-	-	-
Ditto 3 per Cent., ditto	-	-	-	-

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	£ 40 ab.,	£ 40	0 pd.	85
Australasia	-	-	-	-
British North American	-	-	-	-
Commercial of London	-	-	-	-
Colonial	-	-	-	-
London and Westminster	-	-	-	-
London Joint Stock	-	-	-	-
Oriental Bank	-	-	-	-
Provincial of Ireland	-	-	-	-
National of Ireland	-	-	-	-
National Provincial of England	-	-	-	-
South Australian	-	-	-	-
Union of Australia	-	-	-	-
Union of London	-	-	-	-
London and County	-	-	-	-
London Chartered of Australia	-	-	-	-
English, Scottish, and Australia	-	-	-	-
Bank of India, China, and	-	-	-	-
Australia	-	-	-	-
New South Wales	-	-	-	-
Brazilian Bonds, 5 per Cent.	-	-	-	-
Chilian Bonds, 6 per Cent.	-	-	-	-
Danish 5 per Cent.	-	-	-	-
Mexican 3 per Cent.	-	-	-	-
Peruvian 4½ per Cent.	-	-	-	-
Portuguese Bonds, 4 per Cent.	-	-	-	-
Russian Bonds, 1822, 5 per Cent.	-	-	-	-
Ditto, 4½ per Cent.	-	-	-	-
Spanish Bonds 3 per Cent.	-	-	-	-
Ditto, 3 per Cent. Deferred	-	-	-	-
(Dividends on the above payable in London.)	-	-	-	-
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Belgian Bonds, 4½ per Cent.	-	-	-	-
Dutch 2½ per Cent.	-	-	-	-
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National of Ireland	-	-	-	-
National Provincial of England	-	-	-	-
South Australian	-	-	-	-
Union of Australia	-	-	-	-
Union of London	-	-	-	-
London and County	-	-	-	-
London Chartered of Australia	-	-	-	-
English, Scottish, and Australia	-	-	-	-
Bank of India, China, and	-	-	-	-
Australia	-	-	-	-
New South Wales	-	-	-	-
Brazilian Bonds, 5 per Cent.	-	-	-	-
Chilian Bonds, 6 per Cent.	-	-	-	-
Danish 5 per Cent.	-	-	-	-
Mexican 3 per Cent.	-	-	-	-
Peruvian 4½ per Cent.	-	-	-	-
Portuguese Bonds, 4 per Cent.	-	-	-	-
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Bank of India, China, and	-	-	-	-
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Brazilian Bonds, 5 per Cent.	-	-	-	-
Chilian Bonds, 6 per Cent.	-	-	-	-
Danish 5 per Cent.	-	-	-	-
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Danish 5 per Cent.	-	-	-	-
Mexican 3 per Cent.	-	-	-	-
Peruvian 4½ per Cent.	-	-	-	-
Portuguese Bonds, 4 per Cent.	-	-	-	-
Russian Bonds, 1822, 5 per Cent.	-	-	-	-
Ditto, 4½ per Cent.	-	-	-	-
Spanish Bonds 3 per Cent.	-	-	-	-
Ditto, 3 per Cent. Deferred	-	-	-	-
(Dividends on the above payable in London.)	-	-	-	-
Austrian 3 per Cent.	-	-	-	-
Belgian Bonds, 4½ per Cent.	-	-	-	-
Dutch 2½ per Cent.	-	-	-	-
Ditto 4 per Cent. Loan	-	-	-	-
French 4½ per Cent. at Paris, Sept. 27 98½. 80c.	-	-	-	-
Ditto 3 per Cent., ditto	-	-	-	-

FOREIGN STOCKS (27th September.)				
	£ 40 ab.,	£ 40	0 pd.	85
Australasia	-	-	-	-
British North American	-	-	-	-
Commercial of London	-	-	-	-
Colonial	-	-	-	-
London and Westminster	-	-	-	-
London Joint Stock	-	-	-	-
Oriental Bank	-	-	-	-
Provincial of Ireland	-	-	-	-
National of Ireland	-	-	-	-
National Provincial of England	-	-	-	-
South Australian	-	-	-	-
Union of Australia	-	-	-	-
Union of London	-	-	-	-
London and County	-	-	-	-
London Chartered of Australia	-	-	-	-
English, Scottish, and Australia	-	-	-	-
Bank of India, China, and	-	-	-	-
Australia	-	-	-	-
New South Wales	-	-	-	-
Brazilian Bonds, 5 per Cent.	-	-	-	-
Chilian Bonds, 6 per Cent.	-	-	-	-
Danish 5 per Cent.	-			

The closing prices of the day are quoted.

Bank of England Weekly Returns.

Account, pursuant to the Act 7th and 8th of Victoria, cap. 32, for the Weeks ending as follows.

ISSUE DEPARTMENT.

	1854. Aug. 26th.	1854. Sept. 2nd.	1854. Sept. 9th.	1854. Sept. 16th.
Notes issued.....	£ 26,943,695	£ 26,688,250	£ 26,630,110	£ 26,632,816
Government debt.....	11,015,100	11,015,100	11,015,100	11,015,100
Other securities	2,984,900	2,984,900	2,984,900	2,984,900
Gold coin and bullion	12,943,695	12,688,250	12,630,110	12,632,816
Silver bullion	—	—	—	—
	26,943,695	26,688,250	26,630,110	26,632,816

BANKING DEPARTMENT.

	1854. Aug. 26th.	1854. Sept. 2nd.	1854. Sept. 9th.	1854. Sept. 16th.
Proprietors' capital.....	£ 14,553,000	£ 14,553,000	£ 14,553,000	£ 14,553,000
Reserve	3,395,210	3,669,563	3,694,814	3,703,852
Public deposits (including Ex- chequer, Savings' Banks, Com- missioners of National Debt, and Dividend Accounts)	3,974,574	3,996,427	4,342,766	4,985,233
Other deposits	9,975,033	10,402,859	9,766,245	9,780,712
Seven day and other bills	1,060,180	1,032,899	1,039,531	1,023,573
	32,957,997	33,674,748	33,416,316	34,046,372
Government securities (including Dead Weight Annuity)	10,969,279	10,980,029	10,996,955	10,996,955
Other securities	14,480,809	15,178,013	14,719,492	15,353,422
Notes.....	6,896,180	6,836,586	7,009,160	7,049,425
Gold and silver coin	691,729	680,121	691,709	686,560
	32,957,997	33,674,748	33,416,316	34,046,372

The Exchanges.

	Aug. 25th.	Sept. 1st.	Sept. 8th.	Sept. 15th.
Amsterdam, short ..	11 15½	11 16	11 15½	11 15½
Ditto 3 months..	11 17½	11 17½	11 17½	11 17½
Rotterdam, ditto ..	11 17½	11 17½	11 17½	11 17½
Antwerp, ditto ..	25 30	25 30	25 30	25 30
Brussels, ditto.....	25 30	25 30	25 30	25 30
Hamburg, ditto.....	13 6½	13 6½	13 6½	13 6½
Paris, short	25 5	25 5	25 7½	25 7½
Paris, 3 months	25 30	25 30	25 30	25 30
Marseilles, ditto	25 30	25 30	25 30	25 30
Frankfort, ditto	119	119	118½	118½
Vienna, ditto.....	11 36	11 20	11 50	11 40
Trieste, ditto.....	12 35	12 24	11 55	11 44
Petersburgh, ditto ..	36½	36½	36½	36½
Madrid, ditto	49½	50	49½	50
Cadiz, ditto	50	50½	50½	50½
Leghorn, ditto	30 55	30 55	30 52½	30 50
Genoa, ditto	25 47½	25 47½	25 47½	25 45
Naples, ditto.....	43½	44	43½	43½
Palermo, ditto	129	129½	130	129
Messina, ditto	129½	130	130½	129½
Lisbon, 60 days' date	52½	53	52½	53
Oporto, ditto	53½	53½	53½	53½
Rio Janeiro, ditto ..	—	—	—	—

PRICES OF BULLION.

	Per Ounce.	Per Ounce.	Per Ounce.	Per Ounce.
Foreign Gold in Bars. (Standard).....	£ 3 17 9	£ 3 17 9	£ 3 17 9	£ 3 17 9
Mexican Dollars	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 5 2½
Silver in Bars (Stand.)	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 5 1½	0 5 1½

Bankers' Weekly Circulation Returns.

Pursuant to the Act 7 & 8 Victoria, c. 32; extracted from the LONDON GAZETTES.

PRIVATE BANKS.

NAME OF BANK.	Authorised Issue.	AVERAGE AMOUNT.			
		Aug. 12.	Aug. 19.	Aug. 26.	Sept. 2.
	£	£	£	£	£
1 Andover Bank	17,751	11,144	10,335	11,290	11,215
2 Ashford Bank	11,849	10,691	11,235	10,902	10,650
3 Aylsham Bank	5,854	4,561	4,649	4,619	4,597
4 Aylesbury Old Bank	48,461	24,281	25,866	26,366	26,895
5 Baldock and Biggleswade Bank ...	37,223	24,100	24,525	23,563	23,544
6 Barnstable Bank	17,182	8,975	8,849	10,639	10,775
7 Basingstoke and Odiham Bank ...	24,730	18,312	17,135	16,201	16,727
8 Bedford Bank	34,218	29,078	29,327	30,293	30,405
9 Bewdley Bank	18,597	12,242	11,676	11,612	11,211
10 Bicester and Oxfordshire Bank ...	27,090	13,430	13,225	13,945	12,687
11 Birmingham Bank—Attwoods & Co.	23,695	24,755	22,810	22,085	23,648
12 Birmingham and Warwickshire Bk.	18,132	10,688	9,930	10,270	10,338
13 Blandford Bank	9,723	6,942	6,838	6,517	6,858
14 Boston Bank—Garfit and Co.	75,069	61,977	64,872	66,405	64,854
15 Boston Bank—Gee and Co.	15,161	13,908	13,514	13,574	13,187
16 Bridgewater Bank	10,028	4,897	4,795	4,806	5,033
17 Bristol Bank	48,277	38,582	37,912	36,564	36,749
18 Broseley and Bridgenorth Bank ...	26,717	15,799	15,294	15,314	15,869
19 Buckingham Bank	29,557	19,627	20,162	20,851	20,848
20 Bury and Suffolk Bank	82,362	61,345	60,967	59,989	59,699
21 Banbury Bank	43,457	27,250	28,042	28,055	27,675
22 Banbury Old Bank	55,153	20,350	21,268	22,029	22,480
23 Bath City Bank	4,572	3,273	3,144	2,915	2,871
24 Bedfordshire Leighton Buzzard Bk.	36,829	32,897	32,073	32,179	33,032
25 Birmingham Bk.—Taylor & Lloyds	38,816	33,359	31,416	30,580	31,679
26 Bradford Old Bank	12,676	12,082	12,001	12,175	12,015
27 Brecon Old Bank	68,271	62,403	67,351	66,558	66,834
28 Brighton Union Bank	33,794	22,152	22,225	22,370	22,642
29 Burlington and Driffield Bank	12,745	11,645	11,832	12,084	12,255
30 Bury St. Edmund's Bank	3,201	2,146	1,988	1,885	1,921
31 Cambridge Bk.—Mortlock & Co.	25,744	13,224	12,899	12,475	12,185
32 Cambridge and Cambridgeshire Bk.	49,916	39,079	38,909	37,687	38,036
33 Canterbury Bank	33,671	29,853	30,622	30,484	30,683
34 Carmarthen Bank	23,597	22,979	23,493	23,351	22,798
35 Chertsey Bank	3,436	2,980	2,700	2,671	2,906
36 Colchester Bank	25,082	15,069	15,280	15,198	15,276
37 Colchester and Essex Bank	48,704	27,324	26,761	27,245	27,753
38 Cornish Bank—Tweedy & Co. ...	49,869	48,530	48,555	48,805	49,048
39 Coventry Bank	12,045	7,096	6,533	6,410	6,445
40 City Bank, Exeter	21,527	19,966	19,235	18,664	18,360
41 Craven Bank—Alcocks & Co. ...	77,154	67,041	66,560	67,842	68,464
42 Cardiff Bank	7,001	6,891	6,914	7,044	6,956
43 Chepstow Old Bank	9,387	8,044	7,926	7,936	8,195
44 Derby Bank—Messrs. Evans	13,332	11,120	11,695	11,152	11,061
45 Derby Bank—Smith and Co.	41,304	31,283	32,867	32,322	32,303
46 Derby Old Bank	27,237	25,736	25,738	25,802	26,139
47 Devizes and Wiltshire Bank	20,674	8,867	8,628	8,420	8,664
48 Diss Bank	10,657	10,131	10,188	10,367	10,305
49 Doncaster Bank and Retford Bank	77,400	70,174	67,830	68,469	68,489
50 Darlington Bank	86,218	79,197	77,591	80,407	81,941
51 Devonport Bank	10,664	9,982	9,239	9,407	9,381
52 Dorchester Old Bank	48,807	48,660	50,182	47,580	46,402
53 East Cornwall Bk.—Robins & Co.	112,280	105,734	105,630	108,174	109,739
54 East Riding Bank—Bower & Co.	53,392	48,273	48,298	47,474	48,700
55 Essex Bk. & Bishops Stortford Bk.	69,637	40,295	39,086	38,334	38,224
56 Exeter Bank	37,894	26,452	25,875	25,352	26,215
57 Fakenham Bank	24,293	20,109	20,100	20,025	20,364

WEEKLY RETURNS OF BANKS OF ISSUE.

NAME OF BANK.	Authorized Issue.	AVERAGE AMOUNT.			
		Aug. 12.	Aug. 19.	Aug. 26.	Sept. 2.
	£	£	£	£	£
58 Faringdon Bk. & Bk. of Wantage	8,977	5,451	5,383	5,639	6,102
59 Farnham Bank	14,202	10,919	10,935	11,483	11,105
60 Faversham Bank	6,681	6,685	6,382	5,924	5,670
61 Godalming Bank	6,322	5,421	5,221	5,194	4,952
62 Guildford Bank	14,524	4,869	4,954	4,903	4,545
63 Grantham Bank—Hardy and Co.	30,372	21,980	21,995	22,483	22,588
64 Hastings Old Bank	38,038	28,012	25,907	25,558	25,403
65 Hereford City and County Bank	22,364	14,193	13,932	13,290	13,615
66 Hertford and Ware Bank	23,635	12,586	12,786	12,851	12,390
67 Hull & Kingston-upon-Hull Bank	19,979	19,074	18,714	19,226	18,215
68 Huntingdon Town & County Bank	56,591	38,494	38,775	39,253	38,901
69 Harwich Bank	5,778	5,487	5,950	5,765	5,836
70 Hemel Hempstead Bank	23,842	22,595	21,515	22,405	21,576
71 Hertfordshire, Hitchin Bank	38,764	31,012	31,049	30,621	29,697
72 Hereford, Ross, & Archenfield Bk.	27,625	20,860	20,991	21,074	21,505
73 Ipswich Bank	21,901	16,705	16,286	16,013	16,515
74 Ipswich & Needham Market Bank	80,699	55,314	55,225	54,667	55,203
75 Kentish Bank—Mercer & Co.	19,895	13,349	13,538	12,815	12,922
76 Kington and Radnorshire Bank	26,050	22,818	24,047	24,974	24,811
77 Knighton Bank	9,090	8,530	9,100	9,384	9,305
78 Knaresborough Old Bank	21,825	18,021	18,645	20,063	20,814
79 Kendal Bank	44,663	36,447	38,214	38,268	38,373
80 Kettering Bank	9,192	8,094	8,939	8,876	9,185
81 Lane End Staffordshire Bank	5,624	5,212	5,025	5,287	5,260
82 Leeds Bank	53,357	54,266	53,862	52,842	51,566
83 Leeds Union Bank	37,459	37,733	37,414	37,185	37,059
84 Leicester Bank	32,322	23,817	23,168	23,114	23,052
85 Lewes Old Bank	44,836	25,815	26,565	27,106	27,175
86 Lichfield Bank	22,786	9,354	8,678	9,135	9,045
87 Lincoln Bank	100,342	77,495	73,285	74,608	74,052
88 Llandoverly Bank & Llandilo Bank	32,945	18,860	21,883	25,767	22,613
89 Loughborough Bank	7,359	6,586	6,662	6,818	6,883
90 Lymington Bank	5,038	3,871	3,891	3,885	4,005
91 Lynn Regis and Lincolnshire Bank	42,817	32,368	30,545	30,762	31,160
92 Lynn Regis and Norfolk Bank	13,917	10,079	10,390	10,121	9,719
93 Macclesfield Bank	15,760	14,073	14,628	14,670	14,697
94 Manningtree Bank	7,692	2,535	2,336	2,307	2,474
95 Merionethshire Bank	10,906	5,978	6,406	5,873	5,936
96 Miners' Bank	18,688	13,934	13,460	13,466	13,710
97 Monmouthshire Agricultural and Commercial Bank	29,335	30,720	29,015	27,441	27,516
98 Monmouth Old Bank	16,385	14,130	15,347	15,041	15,008
99 Newark Bank	28,788	19,235	19,018	18,300	17,697
100 Newark and Sleaford Bank	51,615	42,243	40,830	40,847	40,354
101 Newbury Bank	36,787	17,409	16,786	16,196	16,794
102 Newmarket Bank	23,098	15,089	14,653	14,613	14,375
103 Norwich Crown Bank and Norfolk and Suffolk Bank	49,671	43,347	43,306	42,815	42,960
104 Norwich and Norfolk Bank	75,372	64,552	63,551	62,271	63,025
105 Nottingham, Nottinghamshire	10,866	9,018	8,862	8,774	8,555
106 Nuneaton Bank	5,898	3,277	2,800	2,659	2,742
107 Naval Bank, Plymouth	27,321	23,336	22,123	21,735	20,981
108 New Sarum Bk.—Everett & Smith	15,659	11,913	12,810	13,045	13,047
109 Nottingham Bank	31,047	25,655	25,440	25,758	25,820
110 Oswestry Bank	18,471	8,838	9,102	9,004	8,990
111 Oxford Old Bank	34,391	30,653	29,147	29,155	28,354
112 Old Bank, Tonbridge	13,183	8,203	8,102	7,950	7,773
113 Oxfordshire Witney Bank	11,852	9,295	8,995	9,353	9,349
114 Pease's Old Bank, Hull	48,807	45,113	45,722	45,754	45,053
115 Penzance Bank	11,405	11,120	11,032	10,886	10,335
116 Peterborough Bank—Yorke & Co.	12,545	7,722	7,434	7,576	7,886

WEEKLY RETURNS OF BANKS OF ISSUE.

NAME OF BANK.	Authorised Issue.	AVERAGE AMOUNT.			
		Aug. 12.	Aug. 19.	Aug. 26.	Sept. 2.
	£	£	£	£	£
117 Pembrokehire Bank	12,910	9,963	10,217	9,965	9,526
118 Reading Bank—Simmonds & Co.	37,519	26,824	26,822	26,097	26,511
119 Reading Bk.—Stephens & Blandy	43,271	25,110	24,967	24,868	24,580
120 Richmond Bank, Richmond	6,889	5,816	5,446	5,452	5,686
121 Rochdale Bank	5,590	5,485	5,345	5,475	5,256
122 Rochester, Chatham, & Strood Bk.	10,480	7,636	7,706	7,611	7,679
123 Royston Bank	16,393	12,314	12,801	12,460	12,028
124 Rugby Bank	17,250	9,550	8,869	9,385	9,627
125 Rye Bank	29,864	12,169	12,269	12,375	13,203
126 Ross Old Bank, Herefordshire ...	4,420	4,377	4,022	3,964	4,110
127 Saffron Walden & North Essex Bk.	47,646	22,091	21,450	21,861	20,909
128 Salop Bank	22,338	14,215	13,442	14,597	14,496
129 Scarborough Old Bank	24,813	23,065	23,786	23,625	23,400
130 Shrewsbury Old Bank	43,191	30,958	29,755	32,472	32,073
131 Sittingbourne and Milton Bank...	4,789	3,091	2,980	2,995	2,993
132 Southampton Town & County Bk.	18,589	15,850	15,358	15,238	14,820
133 Southwell Bank	14,744	10,799	10,595	10,455	10,509
134 Southampton and Hampshire Bk.	6,770	3,468	3,545	3,523	3,367
135 Stafford Old Bank	14,166	10,074	10,006	9,583	9,823
136 Stamford and Rutland Bank	31,858	22,043	21,812	21,611	22,668
137 Shrewsbury and Welsh Pool Bank	25,336	21,918	20,767	20,516	21,183
138 Taunton Bank	29,799	23,623	23,351	23,372	23,838
139 Tavistock Bank	13,421	5,473	5,708	5,895	6,229
140 Thornbury Bank	10,026	4,892	4,641	4,645	4,930
141 Tiverton and Devonshire Bank ...	13,470	8,143	8,245	8,309	8,725
142 Thrapstone and Kettering Bank...	11,559	11,279	10,900	11,542	11,692
143 Tring Bank and Chesham Bank...	13,531	12,436	11,401	11,072	11,180
144 Towcester Old Bank	10,801	7,631	7,717	7,660	7,904
145 Town and County of Poole Bk. and Ringwood and Poole Bk.	11,856	9,637	9,551	9,593	9,416
146 Union Bank, Cornwall	17,003	13,256	12,085	12,290	13,648
147 Uxbridge Old Bank	25,136	13,314	13,648	13,321	12,957
148 Wallingford Bank	17,064	7,440	7,113	6,894	6,843
149 Warwick and Warwickshire Bank	30,504	21,696	21,708	21,795	21,221
150 Wellington Bank, Somerset	6,528	4,805	5,124	5,992	5,778
151 West Riding Bank	46,158	43,852	42,776	43,291	43,936
152 Whitby Old Bank	14,258	12,880	12,352	12,070	12,438
153 Winchester, Alresford & Alton Bk.	25,892	19,890	18,793	18,100	17,419
154 Weymouth Old Bank	16,461	17,052	15,794	15,463	15,235
155 Wirksworth and Derbyshire Bk.	37,602	33,561	34,986	34,643	35,012
156 Wisbeach and Lincolnshire Bank	59,713	38,770	39,354	40,062	40,643
157 Wiveliscombe Bank	7,602	7,005	6,694	7,090	7,348
158 Wolverhampton Bk.—Goodricke	14,180	13,710	13,539	13,799	14,058
159 Worcester Bank	15,463	6,072	6,669	7,073	6,463
160 Worcester Old Bank	87,448	59,581	58,641	59,778	59,060
161 Worcestershire Bank	14,309	8,410	8,386	9,125	9,117
162 Wolverham. Bk.—R. & W. Fryer	11,867	11,924	11,590	11,285	11,480
163 Yarmouth and Suffolk Bank	53,060	37,307	36,553	35,713	35,747
164 Yarmouth, Norfolk, & Suffolk Bk.	13,229	11,836	10,855	10,950	11,390
165 York Bank	46,387	39,843	38,792	38,301	37,777

JOINT STOCK BANKS.

1 Bank of Westmoreland	12,225	8,225	8,038	8,259	8,290
2 Barnsley Banking Company	9,563	8,966	9,040	8,789	8,903
3 Bradford Banking Company	49,292	46,761	49,144	48,078	48,022
4 Bilston District Banking Company	9,418	9,347	9,501	8,377	8,210
5 Bank of Whitehaven	32,681	28,508	28,703	28,599	29,774
6 Bradford Commercial Banking Co.	20,084	20,074	19,595	19,571	19,534
7 Burton, Uttoxeter, and Staffordshire Union Bank	60,701	40,250	40,555	41,374	41,717

WEEKLY RETURNS OF BANKS OF ISSUE.

NAME OF BANK.	Authorized Issue.	AVERAGE AMOUNT.			
		Aug. 12.	Aug. 19.	Aug. 26.	Sept. 2.
	£	£	£	£	£
8 Chesterfield & N. Derbysh. Bk. Co.	10,421	9,939	10,151	10,485	10,983
9 Cumberland Union Banking Co....	35,395	31,802	32,465	31,881	32,333
10 Cheltenham & Glo'stershire Bk. Co.	12,786	9,982	9,618	9,695	9,682
11 Coventry and Warwickshire Bk. Co.	28,734	20,768	19,483	19,881	20,015
12 Coventry Union Banking Company	16,251	13,285	12,360	12,970	13,008
13 County of Gloucester Banking Co.	144,352	97,380	97,157	97,418	99,275
14 Carlisle & Cumberland Banking Co.	25,610	24,861	26,338	26,525	24,660
15 Carlisle City and District Bank ...	19,972	18,663	18,466	19,681	20,639
16 Dudley & West Bromwich Bk. Co.	37,696	37,798	37,914	36,780	37,918
17 Derby and Derbyshire Banking Co.	20,093	18,003	19,125	19,767	19,572
18 Darlington Dist. Joint Stock Bk. Co.	26,134	19,922	20,719	23,600	22,413
19 East of England Bank	25,025	23,647	23,972	23,540	23,240
20 Gloucestershire Banking Company	155,920	132,938	133,825	136,265	137,980
21 Halifax Joint Stock Bank.....	18,534	16,494	16,662	17,618	17,292
22 Huddersfield Banking Company...	37,354	39,213	37,882	33,762	32,030
23 Hull Banking Company	29,333	23,026	23,355	22,686	21,823
24 Halifax Commercial Banking Co.	13,733	13,364	13,597	13,067	12,929
25 Halifax & Huddersfield Union Bk.	44,137	43,407	42,344	40,450	40,296
26 Helston Banking Company	1,503	1,427	1,499	1,493	1,425
27 Herefordshire Banking Company...	25,047	15,757	16,565	16,462	16,891
28 Knaresborough and Claro Bk. Co.	28,059	23,655	23,955	24,610	25,044
29 Kingsbridge Joint Stock Bank	3,952	3,430	3,320	3,104	2,889
30 Lancaster Banking Company	64,311	54,559	53,506	53,402	53,944
31 Leeds Banking Company	23,076	23,696	23,194	22,483	22,502
32 Leicestershire Banking Company...	86,060	59,828	59,675	62,745	61,713
33 Lincoln and Lindsey Banking Co.	51,620	45,265	45,585	44,780	45,580
34 Leamington Priors and Warwick- shire Bank	13,875	11,083	11,270	10,993	10,258
35 Ludlow and Tenbury Bank	10,215	9,641	9,955	10,969	10,179
36 Moore & Robinson's Notts. Bank...	35,813	27,943	27,353	27,470	30,190
37 Nottingham and Notts. Banking Co.	29,477	23,360	23,985	24,230	25,341
38 National Provincial Bk. of England	442,371	390,309	388,111	390,662	394,200
39 North Wilts Banking Company ...	63,939	37,434	37,558	38,047	35,951
40 Northamptonshire Union Bank ...	84,356	67,338	67,023	67,856	68,067
41 Northamptonshire Banking Co. ...	26,401	22,338	22,169	22,261	22,736
42 North and South Wales Bank.....	63,951	38,627	37,305	37,085	37,670
43 Pare's Leicestershire Banking Co...	59,300	39,755	38,259	39,066	38,852
44 Saddleworth Banking Company ...	8,122	2,412	2,251	2,494	2,464
45 Sheffield Banking Company.....	35,843	37,521	34,543	33,544	36,874
46 Stamford, Spalding & Boston Bk. Co.	55,721	43,231	44,110	44,815	44,533
47 Stuckey's Banking Company	356,976	316,641	318,138	320,993	327,147
48 Shropshire Banking Company.....	47,951	43,600	46,972	46,075	47,530
49 Stourbridge and Kidderminster Bk.	56,830	54,785	56,000	56,052	56,290
50 Sheffield and Hallamshire Bank ...	23,524	22,163	22,066	23,615	24,811
51 Sheffield & Rotherham Jt. Stock Bk.	52,496	51,668	53,296	52,788	50,960
52 Swaledale and Wensleydale Bank..	54,372	45,435	43,050	43,807	44,323
53 Storey and Thomas's Bank	9,714	9,558	9,502	10,069	9,664
54 Wolverhampton & Staffordsh. Bk...	35,378	35,333	35,781	37,644	32,635
55 Wakefield and Barnsley Union Bk.	14,604	11,714	11,500	11,416	11,676
56 Whitehaven Joint Stock Bank ...	31,916	27,580	27,200	27,570	27,910
57 Warwick and Leamington Bk. Co.	37,124	26,285	25,667	25,142	25,073
58 West of England and South Wales District Bank	83,535	82,163	79,913	79,930	79,467
59 Wilts & Dorset Banking Company	76,162	73,461	74,038	72,974	72,295
60 West Riding Union Banking Co....	34,029	31,691	31,349	29,337	31,133
61 Whitechurch and Ellesmere Bk. Co.	7,475	3,261	3,405	3,568	3,631
62 Worcester City and County Bk. Co.	6,848	5,074	4,984	4,890	5,075
63 York Union Banking Company ...	71,240	65,645	65,828	65,930	66,360
64 York City and County Banking Co.	94,695	85,654	85,527	86,388	87,327
65 Yorkshire Banking Company	122,532	120,786	120,999	117,293	117,612

SUMMARY OF WEEKLY RETURNS OF BANKS OF ISSUE.

	Fixed Issues.	Aug. 12.	Aug. 19.	Aug. 26.	Sept. 2.
166 Private Banks.....	£4,607,455	£3,499,235	£3,475,133	£3,481,481	£3,484,159
65 Joint Stock Banks..	3,325,857	2,847,759	2,846,855	2,852,170	2,868,860
231 Totals	7,933,312	6,346,994	6,321,988	6,333,651	6,353,219

Average Weekly Circulation of these Banks or the month ending September 2nd:—

Private Banks	£3,485,052
Joint-Stock Banks	2,853,911

Average Weekly Circulation of Private and Joint-Stock Banks ending as above £6,338,963

On a comparison of the above with the Returns for the month ending 5th August last, it shows:—

A decrease in the notes of Private Banks, of	£85,440
A decrease in the notes of Joint-Stock Banks, of	29,332

Total decrease on the month.....£114,772

And as compared with the month ending 3rd September, 1853, it shows—

A decrease in the notes of Private Banks, of	£191,052
A decrease in the notes of Joint-Stock Banks, of	130,619

Total decrease, as compared with the same period of last year

The following is the comparative state of the circulation, as regards the fixed issues—

The Private Banks are below their fixed issues.....	£1,122,403
The Joint-Stock Banks are below their fixed issues.....	471,946

Total below the fixed issues

Irish and Scotch Circulation Returns.

Average Circulation, and Coin held by the IRISH and SCOTCH BANKS during the four weeks ending Saturday, the 2nd day of September, 1854.

IRISH BANKS.

NAME OF BANK.	Authorised Circulation.	Average Circulation during Four Weeks, ending as above.			Average Amt. of Gold & Silver Coin held during Four Weeks ending as above.
		£5 and upwards.	Under £5.	Total.	
	£	£	£	£	£
Bank of Ireland	3,738,428	1,865,525	1,003,600	2,869,125	834,663
Provincial Bank of Ireland	927,667	319,738	498,424	818,162	255,027
Belfast Bank	281,611	54,930	317,462	372,392	213,287
Northern Bank	243,440	33,438	189,964	223,403	91,110
Ulster Bank	311,079	48,086	326,251	374,338	123,740
National Bank of Ireland...	761,757	375,322	478,058	853,381	280,852
Carrick-on-Suir Nat. Bank	24,084	10,348	11,039	21,387	4,590
Clonmel National Bank ...	66,428	22,418	22,804	45,223	11,771
TOTALS (Irish Banks) ...	6,354,494	2,729,805	2,847,602	5,577,411	1,815,040

SCOTCH BANKS.

Bank of Scotland	300,485	117,200	261,825	379,025	151,903
Boyal Bank of Scotland ...	183,000	56,671	113,949	170,621	45,121
British Linen Company ...	438,024	174,068	302,804	476,873	166,244
Commercial Bk. of Scotland	374,880	146,750	318,166	464,916	159,991
National Bank of Scotland..	297,024	101,360	225,591	326,951	80,523
Union Bank of Scotland and Banking Com. in Aberdeen	415,690	166,336	329,862	496,198	165,150
Edinburgh & Glasgow Bk...	136,657	60,317	90,861	151,178	42,541
Aberdeen Town and Co. Bk.	70,133	33,487	67,253	100,740	39,840
North of Scotland Bk. Co...	154,319	81,258	98,450	179,709	51,085
Dundee Banking Company	33,451	12,800	23,760	36,560	8,729
Eastern Bank of Scotland...	33,636	15,432	24,816	40,248	11,926
Western Bank of Scotland..	337,938	149,347	378,316	527,663	299,563
Clydesdale Banking Co. ...	104,028	50,863	110,250	161,114	79,557
City of Glasgow Bank	72,921	78,537	101,076	179,613	119,333
Caledonian Banking Co. ...	53,434	27,966	47,367	75,334	37,180
Perth Banking Company ...	38,656	15,065	32,356	47,421	15,792
Central Bank of Scotland...	42,933	17,171	36,106	53,277	20,865
TOTALS (Scotch Banks)...	3,087,209	1,304,628	2,562,808	3,867,441	1,495,283

CIRCULATION RETURNS.

SUMMARY OF IRISH & SCOTCH RETURNS TO SEPTEMBER 2, 1854.

The Returns of Circulation of the Irish and Scotch Banks for the four weeks ending 2nd September, when added together, give the following as the average weekly circulation of these banks during the past month, viz. :—

Average Circulation of the Irish Banks... £5,577,411
Average Circulation of the Scotch Banks 3,967,441

Total Average Circulation of these Banks for the past month £9,444,852

On comparing these amounts with the Returns for the month ending 5th August last, they show—

Decrease in the Circulation of Irish Banks £36,656
Decrease in the Circulation of Scotch Banks 93,133

Total decrease on the month £131,791

And as compared with the month ending September 3rd, 1853, they show—

Increase in the Circulation of Irish Banks £347,024
Increase in the Circulation of Scotch Banks 138,551

Total increase on the year 485,575

The fixed issues of the Irish and Scotch Banks at the present time are given in the *Banking Almanac*, as follows:—

8 Banks in Ireland, allowed to issue... £6,354,494
18 Banks in Scotland, allowed to issue .. 3,087,209

26 Banks in all, allowed to issue..... £9,441,703

The following appears, therefore, to be the comparative state of the circulation :—

Irish Banks are below their fixed issue .. £777,083
Scotch Banks are above their fixed issue 780,232

Total above the fixed issue £3,149

The amounts of Gold and Silver held at the head offices of the several banks, during the past month, have been as follows:—

Gold and Silver held by the Irish Banks £1,815,040
Gold and Silver held by the Scotch Banks 1,495,283

Total of Gold and Silver Coin £3,310,323

Being a decrease of £6,833 on the part of the Irish Banks, and a decrease of £19,053 on the part of the Scotch Banks, on the several amounts held by them during the preceding month.

CIRCULATION OF THE UNITED KINGDOM TO SEPTEMBER 2, 1854.

The following is the state of the Note Circulation of the United Kingdom, for the month ending the 2nd September, 1854.

Circulation of Notes for the Month ending 2nd September, as compared with the previous month :

	Aug. 5.	Sept. 2.	Increase.	Decrease.
Bank of England	£20,539,109	£20,046,656	—	£492,513
Private Banks	3,570,492	3,485,052	—	85,440
Joint Stock Banks	2,883,243	2,353,911	—	529,332
Total in England	26,992,844	26,365,619	—	627,265
Scotland	3,962,576	3,867,441	—	95,135
Ireland	5,614,067	5,577,411	—	36,656
United Kingdom.....	£36,569,547	£35,830,471	—	£739,076

The comparison of the month ending September 3rd, 1853, with the month ending September 2nd, 1854, shows a decrease in the Bank of England circulation of £2,789,613, a decrease in Private Banks of £191,052, and a decrease in Joint Stock Banks of £130,649; being a total decrease in England of £3,111,314; while in Scotland there is an increase of £138,551; and in Ireland an increase of £347,024. Thus showing that the month ending 2nd September, as compared with the same period last year, presents a decrease of £3,111,314 in England, and a decrease of £2,625,739 in the United Kingdom.

The return of Bullion in the Bank of England, for the month ending September 2nd, gives an aggregate amount in both departments of £13,566,727. On a comparison of this with the Return for the month, ending August 5th, there appears to be an increase of £6,381; and a decrease of £3,419,281 as compared with the same period last year.

The stock of specie held by the Banks in Scotland and Ireland during the month ending 2nd September, was £3,310,323; being a decrease of £25,866 as compared with the return of the previous month, and an increase of £688,435 as compared with the corresponding period last year.

THE BANKERS' MAGAZINE,

AND

Journal of the Money Market.

NOVEMBER, 1854.

THE AMERICAN RAILWAY AND MONETARY CRISIS.

ALTHOUGH from the tenour of recent advices there are grounds for hope that railway disasters may have reached their lowest level in New York and other great marts of reckless speculation in the Union, it would be unsafe to conclude too hastily therefore, notwithstanding intermittent indications of favourable reaction, bearing too much the appearance sometimes of being got up, by deeply-committed speculators, for the steamers about to leave for Europe, that railway affairs should resume at once, or for a period to come, when at all, their pristine vitality and flourishing career of prices and premiums, or that the condition of railway markets should be other than one of prostration, after such an agency of ruinous depression. After the process of exhaustion to which these interests have been subjected, intensely aggravated by the frauds of mismanagement, to an extent unparalleled in railway annals either there, here or elsewhere, instant recovery does not follow as of course; for credit and confidence once shaken and abused, are slower of renovation than they are primarily slow of growth; whilst there is danger also for a time, lest relapse, or collapse even, should supervene upon the extreme debility of prostrated energies.

The continuous stream and enormous amounts of American railway securities remitted to this country by each successive steamer for some few years past, first began to attract attention and excite misgivings in the middle of 1853; but as all was prosperity then, and the exports of commodities hence in all the excess of overflow, although money carried high rates of interest then as now, the occasional significant warnings of calm observers against a growing "go-ahead" railway mania—the more than possible worthlessness of some of the railway schemes repre-

sented by bonds and shares—the remote, if not doubtful, promise of adequate dividend returns from others of more plausible pretensions, or resting on more solid foundations—with the wild extensions, the prodigal bond issues and expenditure of all, met with little regard, and were conceived to be sufficiently answered by the ever-rising prices and premiums which each successive steamer brought from Wall Street (the stock exchange of New York), along with cargoes of more bonds on freight. For American capitalists and agents, charged with the negotiation and placement of these railway and other securities, those were rare times, such as had not been witnessed since the days of Nicholas Biddle and the banco-state loan mania of 1834-5-6, concluding in the tremendous explosion of 1837. Shares and bonds had only to be created, remitted and drawn against—operations presenting but little difficulty, as was too awfully exemplified when, in the early part of this current year, the gigantic frauds and forgeries of Mr. Schuyler, managing director of numerous American lines, first came to light. To cover the deficits and delinquencies of reckless speculation, that unhappy man, the bearer of an honoured name, was found to have forged and issued false share certificates for millions of dollars. The astounding discovery naturally raised distrust in the public mind of all boards of management, as well as of railway values, too soon justified by events. For the first time, in some cases at least, railway books were brought to the balance proof, and registers compared with certificate issues in legal form or of base fabrication. In result, defalcations and forgeries were found to have been, as if by concert, the order of the day, in other companies as well as the Schuyler lines, although short of the same enormous amount—some hundreds of thousands each instead of millions—except in one instance, in which the magnitude of managerial delinquency almost rivalled that of the New York and New Haven Company. The dry rot, in short, was in the railway camp, and panic in Wall Street; whilst culprit directors were left to abscond, or their evasion connived at by co-directors or confederates, not blameless perhaps of complicity in their malpractices, but certainly amenable to the severest censure for scandalous disregard of the duties and responsibilities attaching to the position they had accepted, and probably canvassed for eagerly.

It is scarcely necessary to say, that the story of these railway malversations is one of very great concern in this country, not only because this is the chief, almost the sole, European mart in which American railway securities have, not without certain mysteries of management, been inducted into favour, and with which, consequently, it has been crammed to repletion, but also

that, whilst it serves to expose and stigmatise the leading incidents of the day, which have so largely, yet so justly, damaged that species of property, and discounted so injuriously the mass of British capital incautiously invested in it, it may serve, moreover, to impress on the public wholesome warnings of the risk of dealing with and investing capital in vast enterprises, far out of sight and away, in the management of which they can have no voice, nor over their affairs the slightest control, whatever the stake of interest hazarded. Investments such as these should not be adventured without the most wary circumspection, and a practical, when not personal, familiarity with facts and circumstances, rarely to be possessed, save by intelligent observers on the spot. There was no specially salient feature of present profit, whatever there might be of prospective promise, about the New York railway projects in the commencement, nor has there been since, nor is there now, with the partial or approaching completion of the lines, to justify either the premiums first borne by the shares, or the immense credit into which the lines rose, and which has opened to their directors such almost boundless facilities for borrowing millions upon millions on bond issues, for the privileged acquisition of which lenders, more eager and liberal than sagacious, were not unfrequently taxed in premiums of consideration besides. In the course of years, under superior management, the New York lines may, and we doubt not will, become of highly enhanced value, offering a secure and beneficial investment for income and capital, more especially to those who hereafter shall be enabled to invest on the lowest and most advantageous conditions of price. For the rest, the first and more early served at the highest rates of an El Dorado, conceived to be in hand whilst still only in the bush, they must be content, when dividend days arrive, to accept them *pro rata*, not of the capital sunk on purchase or investment originally, but of that capital reduced to, and measured by, the share and bond rates ruling of the day. It is, however, mainly, if not altogether, to increase of population, with rateably progressive movement onward of agriculture, industry and commerce, that the railway will be indebted for whatsoever they may enjoy of future prosperity. At present, so unsatisfactory and unpromising is their condition, that the directors of the various lines, at a meeting convened *ad hoc*, came to the conclusion that the low fares were the one cause of the depreciation of railway property, inasmuch as the traffic at such rates was not equal to the payment of fair dividends, after deduction of working expenses and other outgoings. The rates of fare were therefore raised; but so far, it would appear, the experiment had not succeeded, but rather the reverse.

As the immense shipments of railway bonds to this country for sale, and their absorption, during the last four years more especially, with the very large amounts previously and during the same period invested in shares, have undeniably exercised a powerful influence on the current of monetary affairs, and contributed materially to make and to keep money "tight," and discount rates high, to the damage of commerce and every branch of our home industry, it may not be without interest to introduce here the results of an inquiry, instituted by the secretary of the American treasury, into the amounts of American railway stocks and shares "held by foreigners on the 30th of June, 1853," premising that we are quite satisfied the materials were not and could not be in existence for making out a full, true, and particular account, or even approximately only, with regard to the holding of values, of bonds above all, which were daily changing hands without any necessity of registration, because made payable to bearer. With shares the case would be to some extent otherwise, although there can be no doubt that important quantities are registered for the account of British holders in the names of their American correspondents, for more ready sale and transfer on convenient occasion, in the usual course of mercantile and speculation dealing; for it is well known that mercantile and money-dealing capitalists here, as elsewhere, enter into such foreign share and loan transactions on the largest scale of holders, not with any view to permanent investment for income or accumulation, but for the temporary employment of surplus funds at the most profitable returns of interest, as customary in their home dealings in Consols, shares or railway bonds, until the funds so used shall be required for other purposes, or prices and premiums shall be so ripe as to offer an irresistible temptation to realise. In short, they deal or speculate in stock and share values as they do in cotton or sugar; and the correspondent in the United States, who should purchase cotton to speculative order for A. B. C. in London or Liverpool, with instructions not to ship till further order, would hold such cotton *ad interim* in his own name, and so return it, probably, could such return be requested officially, as to give up the names of his principals in Europe, might chance to prejudice their interests; for the soul of all commercial or monetary business and speculation is promptitude and secresy, as far as practicable.

It is to be observed of the following table, drawn up by order of the Secretary of the Treasury, that the returns for 222 of the railways were compiled, "with few exceptions," by their "own officers," whilst those for 22 other railways, from which no returns were made, were collected from the American Railroad Journal, and "part from brokers."

AMERICAN RAILROADS AND STOCKS HELD BY FOREIGNERS ON THE
30TH OF JUNE, 1853.

	Dollars.
Capital paid in (shares)	309,893,967
Held by foreigners	8,025,990
Bonds outstanding	170,111,552
Do. held by foreigners	43,888,752
Total capital paid in, and bonds out	480,005,519
Total of both held by foreigners	51,914,742

According to this statement, less than one-ninth of the aggregate share and bond capital of the railways was held by foreigners; but there can be no doubt that in this country alone, little less than one-fifth of the aggregate total is held and in circulation—that is, in agents' and brokers' hands, on and for sale and return—say in round numbers, for 90 million of dollars, or upwards of 18 millions sterling (at 4*s.* 2*d.* per dollar to 18,750,000). We have, however, after all, the returns for 244 railways only; whereas, according to the lists published in the American railroad journals, there should be 358 branch lines, not reckoned, which might much further swell the total of bond and share capital held abroad, and mainly, if not exclusively, in this country. The progress of American railways has been marvellous, as will be seen by this brief *resumé* for 10 years each, and the last three years, the first short line of three miles being that made in Massachusetts in 1828:—

1828	..	..	..	..	miles constructed..	3
1833	..	..	..	..	" "	1,843
1848	..	..	..	..	" "	5,682
1851	..	..	..	..	" "	9,690
1852	..	..	..	..	" "	11,631
1853	..	..	..	..	" "	13,379

It will be observed at what an accelerated speed they have advanced since 1850, when the mileage made had reached to 7,355, and the last four years were exactly the period during and commencing with which the imports, traffic and investments in railway shares and bonds have been carried on upon a scale of such enormous proportions—transactions of a magnitude which have yearly increased, if not still increasing, and which, in the interest of British industry, as well as for the safety of capital, ought to be discouraged and diminished. And not in the interests of this country alone, but of those of America, scarcely, if at all, less; for the honourable pursuits of industry are gravely interfered with, the sobriety of agricultural labour is debauched and disturbed, and the whole productive forces of society are disorganised and debilitated by a "go-ahead" gambling propensity, eating into its vitals, for playing bold strokes with fortune, armed with loaded dice, against the rash

and reckless adventurers. Scarcely a farmer, or farm labourer at high wages, within railway hail—scarcely a master-manufacturer or well-paid operative—scarcely a merchant, storekeeper or clerk in town or country, but possess and parade their railway lottery shares and bonds, and are daily consulting share lists and stock markets for promised premiums, when they should each in his vocation be landing imports and shipping products, laying in stores and making sales, spinning yarn and weaving domestics, feeding hogs and tending corn crops. Amongst the numerous trading and mercantile—many of them ponderous—failures which have signalised the current year in the United States, there is scarcely one that may not be, and has not been, directly traceable and traced to the mania for railway speculation. Survey the whole career, daily and yearly, of American commerce and industry, in all its infinite variety of shapes and complicated machinery of detail, internal and external, and it will astonish the unobservant mind to find how vast a proportion of it, and far the largest, reposes upon, and is worked with, European capital exclusively, but above all, British capital. The American farmer deals on credit with the interior dealer or storekeeper for his dry or other commodities, to be cleared off on the next crop, and a fresh score then run up. The storekeeper buys and replenishes at New York or elsewhere on the sea board, from the importer or consignee of Manchester, Yorkshire, Birmingham, and other wares, on credit also from spring to fall trade, or *vice versa*. The consignee accepts, on a two-thirds invoice, for his Lancashire and other consignors, and has realised before his bills fall due. The importer on his own account, with partner and house in England, probably of substance as he may be, and of credit as he is, buys on terms also in the general way, and can only sell to the south, west, and far west on the twice-a-year indulgence to far outlying districts. The New York and other banks come in aid for the intermediate discounts of paper representing legitimate business, as between storekeepers, importers and consignees, and banks of the locality are ready to melt the farmers' notes with their own notes for due consideration. The foundation stone of this structure of credit, more ramified and intricate in its details than it is necessary to unravel, is laid in old Europe, but for more particularity, because chiefly, in old England, the American farmer and land-owner being the crown or apex of it. There comes a time, always of ominous advent, but never so sure to arrive as at the most inconvenient and inauspicious of all seasons—that is, when people, too highly sublimated to attend to their own business, are day-dreaming, with eyes open, about railway shares, or consulting the stars and horns of the moon at night, for luck and premiums. When

crops fail, the farmer or planter does not pay his notes; the storekeeper makes default in his obligations, and is missing in New York at the fall season; the importer and consignee cannot meet their bills, and the whole credit fabric comes tumbling down upon John Bull on the foundation stone, who, Atlas like, used to the whole globe, is somewhat staggered, nevertheless, with the falling fragments of so massy a proportion of it, but, with the patience becoming so solid or stolid a personage, sits quietly to the work, so soon as may be, of reconstruction, with, as he hopes, more desirable materials. Nevertheless, many of John Bull's family fall victims in such a field of trading disasters.

After this exemplification of the ways and the extent in which British capital is called upon to assist the internal exchanges of the United States, we shall advert more briefly still to the facts of its intermediate accessory and indispensable agency in the conduct of the foreign trade, and exchanges of the Union. Suffice it that, within almost fractional values, the trade with India, China, the India Archipelago, South America, and North Spanish in the Pacific and the Atlantic, and a very considerable proportion of American commercial intercourse with continental Europe, is carried on with and based upon British capital. The statement is susceptible of proof to all the extent asserted, and, on sufficient occasion, forthcoming. Add to all this the vast amounts of British capital actually invested in the railways, manufactures, lands, and all other enterprises in the United States. In summary, we buy all American products with money, and sell all our own to America at credit dates more or less removed, and we supply America with letters of credit for drawing against all over the world.

Now, we are not without anxiety—we confess to some uneasiness indeed—on the actual state of affairs in the United States. We pass by, for the present, the overtrading asserted and confessed. But the fact of notoriously deficient grain and other crops cannot be gainsaid. That deficiency, at a very moderate estimate, cannot be taken at less than 150 millions of value lost—say upwards of 30 millions sterling—to the agricultural interest first, distributable among the trading and commercial community afterwards. Bad debts and failures must, sooner or later, follow, and less imports then, of course. The correspondent of a daily journal, writing from New York, at the end of September, estimates the loss much higher, say, “a clear average upon all the crops of 20 per cent. deficit,” which would raise the estimate of loss 70 millions or more, whilst various American journals of repute have placed the amount of damage variously still higher, at 200 and even up to 300 millions of dollars—figures and

estimates all, only to be tested by results hereafter. But, on the most moderate acceptation, there are facts and truth enough to counsel caution, and sobriety of enterprise on either or both sides of the Atlantic. Happily, so far as, on a cursory view of documents, we are enabled to judge, the banks of the United States—those of New York especially—appear on the whole not to have participated in, or been affected by, the hazardous speculations in railway securities, by way of advances, in any perilous degree. Their specie and note circulations are in fair relative proportions to each other, and their deposit accounts, to the last date of this year, bespoke public confidence, by their respectable and gradual increase. In its department of discount, headed “Notes and Bills of Exchange,” answering to our Bank of England “other securities,” it appears that accommodation was somewhat liberally dispensed, as the average of 684 millions of dollars this year was 80 millions over that of last year. Nevertheless, a very commendable exercise of prudence, forbearance, and sagacity would seem to have governed their operations; and so far, upon the limited information before us, for sounding and dissecting, we should be inclined to believe that the banks are likely to prove the sheet-anchor of American credit, and the support to renovation of American industry in coming need, as under former ill-regulated institutions, from 1830 to 1838, they were the bane both of credit and industry, by gross misgovernment, and their conversion into the corrupt instruments of profligate speculation and unprincipled adventurers.

PEOPLE'S INVESTMENTS.

AN important element in the development of social progress, and the promotion of the comfort and happiness of the masses, is the encouragement of provident habits, by affording facilities for the safe, and, as far as may be, the profitable investment and accumulation of those trifling sums which, only while in the enjoyment of health and when employment is abundant, those who are altogether dependent upon the labour of their hands are enabled to lay by. The rigorous self-denial which must be exercised by the working man to put aside anything out of his weekly wages, after paying rent and providing the necessary food and clothing for himself and family, even those who are next above him in the social scale are scarcely cognisant; though there are a few amongst us who would be disposed to question the great value of those little investments to society in general, in fostering industrial habits, and lessening the aggregate of in-

temperance, pauperism, and crime. But, as these results are desirable, so is it essential that the stability and trustworthiness of the various institutions which compete for the poor man's investment, should, as far as possible, be tested. It is obvious, that if from any cause the reward of the self-denying and systematic economy which enabled the investment to be made, should turn out to be the loss of the capital deposited, or even of the anticipated profit, it would, in nineteen cases out of twenty, operate as an effectual barrier to further effort on the part of the same individual, and probably of all over whom his example and influence extended.

In years gone by, the poor man never thought of attempting to secure an independence, or to make provision for sickness or old age, by accumulating small savings from time to time. If he could manage to scrape together a pound or two in the course of the year, it was, if not wasted in a debauch, in the majority of cases expended in the purchase of a share in a lottery ticket. But the ruin of thousands, morally as well as pecuniarily, by that vicious system—the inveterate habits of gambling and undue speculation which it generated, at length brought about its abolition by legislative enactment; and thus the door was closed upon that which for many years was possibly the most popular of all speculations, and the most certain means, except the gaming table, of losing money, that was ever known.

Almost the only other means of investment at that time and for some years subsequently open to those whose only capital was their labour, were the old benefit societies—the bulk of which failed at the moment they were most needed, that is, when the benefit was claimed; their tables having been calculated upon the amount of sickness and the rate of mortality in comparatively young lives, without taking into account the increasing demands which the aging of those lives brought upon the sick, the superannuation, and the death funds. The disappointment and misery which that failure entailed upon a large proportion of the most deserving classes of the community, contributed mainly to the popularity with which the savings banks, which had then just been established, were regarded, and which, being under Government control, and based upon principles which assured to the depositor the return of his capital on demand, together with a moderate but certain rate of interest, afforded to him that security which no class of investment 116 could up to that time command, gave. Two or three isolated instances, where neglect or gross mismanagement had occasioned loss to a comparatively small number of depositors, and which the Government, though they afterwards took steps to prevent recurring, declined to bear the responsibility of, raised some

alarm in the public mind, as to the stability of even these institutions.

About this period, the National Freehold Land Society was projected, avowedly with a political object, and for some months it was carried on as a political weapon to promote the purposes of a particular party. The indefatigability of the manager of this society secured for it, almost at the outset, an enormous amount of business, and his success—the spirit of political rivalry, together with the large profits which some of its earlier members obtained—speedily called into existence a host of imitators. But the political object, though in some two or three instances it is still asserted, is in practice abandoned altogether, and every freehold land society now canvasses public patronage on the ground of its being the most eligible and profitable bank of deposit and investment. In their prospectuses, they one and all hold out the most astonishing advantages. For the trifling payment of 5s. to 8s. a month for ten years, or for from £30 to £50 in all, freehold ground worth £3, £5, or even £10 a year, and which may be let upon a building lease for that rent, is promised to be conveyed. No wonder, then, that these societies have abstracted a vast proportion of capital which would else have found its way into the savings banks, to be there left accumulating at compound interest till wanted, or to be invested in Government annuities as a provision for old age.

Whether the extraordinary degree of public confidence which, in so very brief a period, Freehold Land Societies have commanded, is justified—whether the very flattering expectations which they have raised in the minds of their members are, as regards the great majority of them, likely to be realised—appears, for the reasons before given, to be a very proper subject for inquiry. Generally, what they undertake to do is, that for the sum already mentioned, viz., from £30 to £50, deposited by small monthly payments, extending over about ten years, they will convey over to the member in fee simple a plot of freehold land, retailing it to him at the wholesale price at which the society may have purchased the whole estate of which it forms almost an infinitesimal part. In addition to this, some of these societies undertake to allow interest, at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum, made up annually, upon all subscriptions paid, until the member is actually put in possession of his land; and all of them allow a discount of 5 per cent. per annum on subscriptions paid a year or more in advance, and upon completed shares—that is, during the interim between the payment of the whole of the agreed price and the allotment of the land. This looks all very well upon paper. Let us see if it bears an equally favourable aspect when tried by the test of practice. In the first place, all

these societies adopt the system of balloting for priority of right. The *modus operandi* is this. Every month, or oftener, a ballot takes place, to which every member whose name is upon the books is admitted. Of course, it often happens that the youngest member in point of time—the man who has paid but a single month's subscription—gains the prize, while he who has been paying up regularly during two, three, or more years, must put up with the blank. The advantage of the draw at the ballot is this, that the member secures seniority in the right of choice, and may, as that right advances on the list by exhaustion of previous rights, either obtain for himself an eligible site, or transfer his share at a premium.

It is clear that the same ground of objection applies to this system of balloting as that to which the old lotteries were obnoxious; and in a poor man's investment it is a feature fraught with danger, inasmuch as its tendency is to encourage and foster habits of gambling and a dependence upon chance, which, if indulged in, would involve him in certain ruin. Furthermore, wholly foreign to that which should be a first element in every kind of investment in which those whose whole property is their labour should be induced to enter—viz., certainty.

But, it may be said, there is certainty in these freehold land societies, to this extent, at least—every subscriber is sure that, when he shall have paid up the whole amount of his share, he will have an allotment of land, or, failing that, he will receive 5 per cent. interest per annum upon the money paid. In the first place, if he have to wait until all the other members are served, what security is there that he will not then be compelled to accept an allotment that has been refused by every body else as valueless? And with regard to the interest, that must always depend upon the profit made by the society. In some instances, it is possible that the expectations of profit may be greatly disappointed. If the projectors of these societies literally carry out their promise of allotting the land at the wholesale prices, it is difficult to understand from what source any large amount of profit can be obtained; and in the event of any number of the allotments remaining on hand, in consequence of the shareholders refusing to take them (as has occurred on some of the estates), there might even be found a considerable loss in the end. One society, it is said, recently realised £8,000 by the resale of an estate to a private purchaser. This, however, is quite an exceptional case; and how far they were justified by the Friendly Societies Act, under which they are constituted, in carrying on operations as a trading company, while claiming to be free from its liabilities, is questionable.

The ostensible sources of income, according to the rules, are

entrance fees, fines and, interest charged upon the advances made to enable members to take up their allotments. When a member becomes entitled to an allotment, and is not in a position to pay up the difference between the subscriptions he has paid in and the apportioned purchase price of the land, the society advances the amount on mortgage at 5 per cent., such advance being repayable by monthly instalments, with the interest which is charged upon the balance due at the commencement of each year. The entrance fees are generally half-a-crown a share, and the fines, which are confined to the advanced or mortgaged shares, are sixpence a month, doubling in each succeeding month upon all arrears. In many years the amount obtainable from these resources will do very little more than meet the expenses of management; and where large allowances are made to the directors, and an expensive establishment is maintained, it may not even do that. In such cases it is obvious that, if interest is paid upon the subscriptions, it must come from the subscriptions themselves—that is, out of the principal; and the result to those who have not been fortunate in the ballot will be the sacrifice not only of profit, but of a considerable portion of their hardly-earned and ill-spared capital.

Again, a first consideration with the working man, in the investing his savings, should be to deposit them where, when seasons of difficulty arise, he can recall the money in time to meet the emergency. How stand the freehold land societies in this respect? They all profess to return the full amount of the deposits paid in—some upon ten days', others upon a month's notice. Such repayment, however, must always depend upon there being the necessary funds in hand; and a recent police report of a complaint made by a depositor against a society, which, it was supposed, was in a most flourishing condition, shows that so small an amount as £12, minus the fees charged upon withdrawal, could not be repaid in—the secretary could not say how many months.

In the important element of certainty, therefore, either as regards the amount of profit or the return of the capital, these institutions are defective, and, as compared with the savings banks, vastly inferior. In the savings banks, the deposits being invested in Government securities, can, in the event of a "run," be taken into the market and realised at their full value, and thus made immediately available to meet the pressure; but the land societies, whose principle of action is to invest the deposits as soon as they are received in the purchase of land, at something more than agricultural prices, to be distributed amongst their members at something less than building-land prices—the difference between the two, though the fact is generally

concealed, being their main source of profit—would, if compelled to resell in the open market, in nine cases out of ten, incur an amount of loss that would jeopardise their existence. But, though not to be regarded as a substitute for savings banks, as the depository of the working man's savings, that they are in some respects useful institutions, is not meant to be denied.

Properly conducted, under well-digested, simple, and easily understood rules (a matter which the readiness of the Registrar to certify, on receiving his fee, occasions far less attention in than it deserves), and managed with a due regard to economy by the members themselves, without the aid of expensive establishments and highly-paid boards of direction, they may be made undoubtedly to produce those advantageous results which the combination of capital is calculated to attain. For the tradesman, the highest paid classes of skilled artisans, annuitants, and others whose incomes allow a surplus beyond their ordinary expenditure, which they can afford to risk, and if the risk turns against them to lose, without serious inconvenience to themselves or others, these land societies may offer as eligible a mode of investment as the ordinary class of joint-stock companies which are daily putting forth their attractions. To secure the full benefit obtainable from them, however, the member must be in a position to place himself on the order of right by purchase, in the event of his being unsuccessful for any length of time at the ballot. He may then stand a chance of making a moderate, and perhaps a large profit, either by selecting an eligible plot of land when his turn for the exercise of his right comes round, or by disposing of his share, at a premium, to some other person.

THE LIVERPOOL FAILURES.

LIVERPOOL has been frightened from its propriety by a series of failures comparable only with those which occurred in the panic period seven years since. The alarm occasioned has consequently produced a deep influence upon credit, and the public have watched with some anxiety the progress of investigation into the several estates. Although the whole of the statements have not been submitted to general scrutiny, sufficient of their contents has transpired to furnish an insight into the causes which have led to these ruinous results, and to show that the system upon which operations have been based is one that could scarcely have terminated in any other way. Painful as

this reflection is, it is clear that shocks such as those recently witnessed will periodically recur, until merchants and traders of all grades shall have been brought to a conviction of the necessity of keeping their transactions within prudent limits, and of avoiding one of the greatest temptations in commercial enterprise—the circulation of accommodation paper.

It is at all times an ungracious task to allude to difficulties in commercial circles, particularly when created by a disruption of political affairs, or circumstances involving a depression in an especial branch of business; but the suspensions which have latterly taken place, and to which reference is directly intended, cannot be said to have followed from antecedents of this description, but, on the contrary, from excessive individual speculation, without adequate capital to support its responsibilities. Now, this is a bold assertion, and it will be probably met by the rejoinder, that it is all very well to jump to this conclusion on ascertaining the disastrous consequences of the adventures these several parties have engaged in; but, unqualified as it may appear, it is nevertheless true; and the system on which business is known to have been conducted, should have been accepted as a warning, and prevented that free facility for assistance which is stated to have been rendered to these houses, far beyond the date they were entitled to receive it. If any evidence were required of the instability of the foundation upon which this kind of credit has been supported, it is to be found in the very fact that the first pinch, not to say pressure—for that is a term many sensitive people will object to—has terminated its vitality.

Unreasonable it would be indeed to suppose that trading relations, however lucrative, could be carried out unaccompanied by the intervention of bills or the other auxiliaries of accommodation which a legitimate sphere of commerce presents. But the fatal acquiescence in and extension of the measure to which these facilities have been granted, forms the ground of condemnation in the estimation of those whose prudence would have induced them to stop far short of the limit allowed according to the usage of Liverpool activity. A free exercise of credit, with undoubted resources to meet the liabilities currently entailed in a mercantile career, whether through the agency of banks or the recognised channels of discount brokers, is not a question which any one would for an instant dare dispute; and the more encouraging the success of the merchant or the trader, the greater is his title to respect and consideration in the financial operations which he may be desirous of completing. Confidence begotten in this manner cannot be too well repaid by the assistance essential to maintain a large and increasing business;

yet, when it is perceived that the operations which once were confined to what may be properly designated wholesome and legitimate mercantile contracts, suddenly enlarge and assume a wild and uncertain range, it is not only a duty which the banker or broker owes to himself, but also to his customer, to step in and protect their mutual interests, even at a risk of diverting temporary profits.

Every one who has had the least experience in commercial affairs will readily appreciate the desirableness of establishing checks upon speculation in its early stages, since subsequently it is more difficult to arrest, especially when the ramified channels of trade give increased life and power to its progress. The system adopted in the cases now under notice, presents, in an unmistakeable manner, the success which, through this medium, has for a time attended the inflation of a paper circulation; but it has been followed by the melancholy spectacle of all the firms known to have been intimately associated with it, relying upon each other for support, and of the whole of them endeavouring to shift the odium to more capacious shoulders, by declaring themselves to having been "more sinned against than sinning."

Allowable as the excuse may be in connexion with some of the smaller firms who have thus paid the penalty of their imprudence, it cannot be advanced in favour of those originating the movement. Sanguine as the expectations of returns may have been—enormous as, it is alleged, the result of previous speculations had proved—it was not compatible with the dignity of their position, or with the safety of the branch of business they represented, to launch recklessly into a system of bill accommodation which it was scarcely to be hoped could ever prosper. It was to have been anticipated that the wide-spread distress succeeding the collapse of 1847-48, and the evils then resulting from an extensive abuse of confidence, would, while stimulating the exercise of greater caution on the part of the merchant, have likewise induced his financial supporter to watch with extraordinary vigilance any deviation from a regular course. But this does not appear to have been the case. In fact and circumstance the objectionable phases of the old story are revived—reputed wealth, unparalleled resources, and inordinate credit. With these in full command, so long as the current of business is smooth and the rate of money is easy, the paper floats unharmed by suspicion. It is only when a reverse takes place, and accommodation, which was before freely available, becomes restricted, that these pretensions are discovered to have been largely exaggerated, and the bubble of course bursts, much to the dismay and discomfiture of those implicated. Unfortunate as their position undoubtedly is, the majority interested have

themselves principally to blame; since, although mercantile suspensions are always to be lamented, the perpetuation of such a system of trading is greatly to be reprobated.

This mode of transacting business, indicative as it is of recklessness and an entire absence of forethought, is apparently borrowed from America, where a failure seems to be a secondary consideration, provided there is a chance of again entering into the grand arena of speculation. Springing from this vicious principle, an unlimited employment of paper credit has always, more or less, distinguished the trading operations of our transatlantic neighbours; and, strenuous as the efforts have been to correct the evil, it continues to be largely exhibited whenever a partial pressure ensues. It is to be hoped that any section of the mercantile classes of England are not emulous of imitating, in its worst features, this special description of financiering ability, though, from what has recently occurred, not only in Liverpool but also in London, an impression might be formed that advantage has been taken of the experience already acquired. The severe losses which these failures have entailed will, in all probability, operate for the present as a check to an extension of the system; but this is not sufficient, and a determined endeavour should be made wholly to eradicate it. Whatever may be the nature of the competition for banking facilities, either in the provinces or the metropolis, self-interest and protection should induce co-operation among those primarily concerned, to root out and destroy any organised arrangement which savours of accommodation, or an undue expansion of liabilities. Besides saving a vast amount of obloquy, it will, in the long run, produce the largest proportion of legitimate profit.

A useful lesson is furnished in considering this question, with regard to the operation of the Bank Charter Act. Although that law is not without its defects, some of which, it may reasonably be anticipated, will, at no distant date, be remedied, how vociferous would have been the outcry against its working had these failures taken place in the midst of a general panic. Instead of being attributed, as they are properly now, to their true causes, viz., excessive speculation and overtrading, they would, according to the theories of the currency doctors, have been produced by the stringency of the act and its concurrent consequences. As it is, however, they come before the public in an almost isolated position, and must therefore stand the brunt of inquiry on their separate merits.

MERCANTILE SUSPENSIONS.

FURTHER mercantile suspensions have taken place since the appearance of the last number of the *Bankers' Magazine*, and they have included several firms of importance. With regard to the affairs of Messrs. Scott, Richmond, and Co., alluded to on a former occasion, it has been agreed by a resolution passed at the adjourned meeting of the creditors, to wind up the estate under an assignment. The probable dividend of Messrs. Dean, Youle, and Co., of Liverpool, will, it is stated, be about 6s. in the pound. The following is a list of the firms which have lately fallen into difficulties.

- Sept.—G. A. Ulich, Trieste, Merchant.
 J. Ostereid, Moscow, calico printer.
 H. I. Bolotoff, Shuya, calico printer.
- Oct.—Edward Oliver, Liverpool, merchant and shipowner.
 J. McHenry and Co., Liverpool, American grain and provision trade.
 Allen and Anderson, London, American grain and provision trade.
 Lemon and Co., Brentwood, bankers.
 Perrins and Wright, Dublin, provision trade.
 J. Mitchell, Bradford, manufacturer.
 Truman and Barlow, Manchester, merchants.
 S. F. Morse and Co., Boston, importers of dry goods.
 Moulton and Plimpton, New York, importers of dry goods.
 Reed Brothers, Philadelphia, importers of dry goods.
 Lincoln, Wing, and Co., Boston, Australian trade.
 Chapin and Wilton, Boston, wholesale druggists.

Dismissing the foreign and American failures as comparatively insignificant, although the aggregate amount of liabilities is considerable, the principal attention has been directed to the stoppage of Mr. Edward Oliver and Messrs. McHenry in Liverpool, and Messrs. Allen and Anderson in London. Enormous as were known to be the operations they conducted, they appear to have exceeded in magnitude the estimate generally formed. The transactions of the three firms having been somewhat mixed, the embarrassments of one caused difficulties among the others. A variety of reports have been circulated respecting the ultimate results of these suspensions, and there appears to be a confident opinion, which it is sincerely to be hoped may be realised, that the estate of Mr. Oliver will pay 20s. in the pound, and leave a large surplus. His debts are placed at £700,000, and his property, principally consisting of ships, at £1,168,000. No special figures have appeared in connexion with the concerns of Messrs. McHenry and Co. or Messrs. Allen and Anderson; but it is stated that in each case, the liabilities range from £300,000 to £500,000, and that dividends equal to about 4s. to 5s. may ultimately be obtained. The value of the assets, if any considerable portion should be represented by grain, will have been largely increased through the late rise in Mark-lane, and this would, of course, go to improve the position of the creditors. These disasters have broken some firms in Ireland; but little accurate information of their real position can be ascertained. When Messrs. Anderson and Allen suspended, they issued the subjoined circular.

“London, Oct. 6

DEAR SIR,—We very much regret to announce that, owing to the stoppage of the house of Mr. Edward Oliver, at Liverpool, and the derangement of the affairs of Mr. James McHenry, also of Liverpool, we have been compelled to suspend our payments for the purpose of investigating our affairs.

In the meantime, we have considered it right to acquaint you, that all produce which may come in to us as heretofore from you will be protected for your account and benefit, as well as any produce now on hand unsold, or produce sold, the account of which has not been received.

We deem it right to communicate this at once, to allay any unnecessary anxiety on your part.

We shall be prepared to submit to you, in a day or two, the mode in which we shall hereafter be able satisfactorily to continue our business.

A statement of our affairs is in a state of preparation, under the guidance of Messrs. Quilter, Ball, and Co., of this city, which will be submitted to our creditors at the earliest possible convenience.

We remain, dear sir, yours truly,

ALLEN AND ANDERSON."

These failures, and the causes which are alleged to have produced them, viz., excessive speculation, have been a prominent topic with the press; and although complaints have been heard respecting the views enunciated, the *Times* has answered them in a most satisfactory manner. The annexed letter, published in that journal, relates to the general moral to be derived from these events:—

"SIR,—During the monetary panic of 1847, I addressed a few lines to you, showing that the commercial disasters of that period were to be traced, in a great measure, to bankers not making it a part of their business to ascertain the exact position of the affairs of every house to whom they make large advances; and I venture to express the same opinion upon the appalling disclosures which are now taking place in the affairs of the two Liverpool firms, who have just failed for such unheard-of amounts. Had their bankers adopted the precaution of ascertaining the state of the books of these firms before discounting their paper to such an enormous extent, they would have saved Liverpool the discredit which these affairs have caused; and this precaution was especially necessary in both the present cases, for they were each known only as bold adventurers. Managers of banks should never forget the twofold responsibility of their position—first, that of trustee of their proprietary, whose every shilling is at their mercy; and, next, the duty they owe to prudent, upright merchants, not to aid, but uproot all reckless speculations; for these lavish advances of necessity compel a serious and often fatal restriction towards the many, at the very time when a crisis is brought about by the acts of the bankers themselves.

Oct. 16."

A MERCHANT WHO HAS BOTH REQUIRED AND OBTAINED
LEGITIMATE ASSISTANCE FROM HIS BANKERS."

The *Morning Chronicle*, alluding to the reports circulated when these failures first took place, remarked:—

"Nothing further is positively known regarding the final arrangements now making in the affairs of Mr. Oliver, and of Mr. McHenry, of Liverpool, and Messrs. Allen and Anderson of London. The suspension of these firms appears to have occasioned much unnecessary and most injurious distrust. The general soundness of trade seems to have been quite lost sight of, and one or two suspensions of houses which have, for a long time past, been known to have embarked too freely in extensive and doubtful operations, have, for a short period, occasioned more uneasiness than even the failure of half a dozen good and substantial firms would probably have produced. So far as the London trade is concerned, there is really little, if any, fear of fresh disasters taking place. Business has been gradually but not suddenly contracted; the demand upon the money market has been progressive, and the rates of interest and discount have neither been too rapidly advanced, nor

exceeded what has proved to be a healthy rise. It is important to the public interest to know, and it is gratifying to announce, that the bankers, both private and joint-stock, and the discount houses of London, are rendering every assistance in their power to all customers possessing their confidence. This has been peculiarly exemplified in many instances, and the result has been most satisfactory to all parties. The fact has, of late years, become more generally understood, acknowledged, and acted upon, that, so long as a house can show itself to be in a solvent state, it has a right to expect assistance in times like the present, when much needless alarm prevails. There is certainly, at the present juncture of affairs, every disposition manifested, on the part of the whole monied interest of London, to afford assistance to the mercantile body to any amount, where a knowledge of the business operations of a house and its actual position are not withheld. This is as it should be, and the effect will be to prevent the premature occurrence of any more extensive failures. It appears that we were quite correct in expressing an opinion that the mercantile community of Ireland have magnified the danger to which they may be subjected by the recent failures at Liverpool and London. It appears that, in consequence of the magnitude of Messrs. Allen and Anderson's operations, the trading public of Ireland had jumped to the conclusion that a general pressure was about to take place. This produced uneasiness, fear, and distrust, and finally led to the report of certain houses being in difficulties, which speedily resulted in the names of these firms becoming generally current, and publicly announced. Several of these houses have, however, issued circulars most positively contradicting the report of their suspension. This measure will very greatly tend to restore confidence in the sister isle."

With regard to Mr. Oliver's position, and the prospects of his creditors, the following is also extracted from the *Chronicle*. It should, however, be borne in mind that the process of realising such a vast amount of property is also most sure to produce a serious depreciation.

A statement of the affairs of Mr. Oliver, of Liverpool, has been issued, and corroborates what we have before stated, namely, that his difficulties were but temporary, and would be favourably arranged. His assets show a dividend of 20s. in the pound, and a large surplus to meet any further depreciation in the value of shipping. His estate shows property estimated at £1,168,258, to meet £700,000 liabilities, which gives a surplus of £468,250; but then the former is valued at prime cost, and comprises the following items:—

Value of ships (cost price)	..	..	..	..	£600,850
Due for charters and freights	..	..	..	..	203,000
Due for insurance claims	..	..	..	..	45,000
Value of timber	..	..	..	..	94,500
Value of oils, coal and mines	..	..	..	..	49,300
Amount of bills and securities in hand	..	..	..	..	150,000
Amount of open accounts and securities, about	..	..	..	..	25,000
Sundries	..	..	..	..	608
Total	..	..	..	..	<u>£1,168,258</u>

Allowance must of course be made for contingencies, and consequently what the final result of the estate may be is uncertain; but allowing for a depreciation in the value of the assets of say 30 per cent., there would remain a balance in favour of Mr. Oliver of about £80,000. His property in ships consists of the following vessels:—

Anne.	Georgiana.	Pemberton.
Arethusa.	Georgina.	Pettoma.
Ant.	Glasgow.	Pamela.
Aberfoyle.	Gertrude (deposit).	Poro.
Adriana.	Haidee.	Princeton.
Adam Lodge.	Haidee.	Rover.
Australia.	Harmonie.	Rip Van Winkle.
Africa.	Harriet Wild.	Schodiac.
Alice Walton.	Henry Gardner.	Silling.
Abyssinian.	Hebrides.	Stranger.
Brothers.	Hume.	Shannon.
Birkenhead.	Howard.	Spartan.
Blake.	John Campbell.	Solway.
Charles Chaloner.	Jamaica.	Sovereign.
Clifton Hall.	J. F. Ford.	Sea King.
Canada.	Isabella Hercus.	Shackamaxon.
Confidence.	Kate.	Sandford.
City of Lincoln, (‡).	Kate.	Sarah.
Conrad.	King William.	Theodore.
Columbia.	Lavinia.	Thornhill.
Countess of Arran.	Lanarkshire.	Thames.
Christiana, (‡).	Lady Franklin.	Wildfire.
Ceylon.	Montmorency.	W. Jackson, (‡).
Clymene.	Montezuma.	Wilson Kennedy.
Empire.	Mary Pleasants.	Witch.
Earl Selkirk.	Margaret Jane.	Windsor.
Empire Queen.	Medora.	W. S. Hamilton.
Europa.	Marsden.	Western Bride.
Elgin.	Nepaulese Ambassador.	Yeoman.
Ellen.	New York Packet.	Zetland.
Emporium.	New York Packet.	3 ships at Miramichi.
Empress Eugenie.	Polynesia.	1 ditto P. E. I.
Fingalton.	Paramatta.	1 ditto Sunderland.
Gerard Trainor.	Pedestrian.	

The *Sun* comments very freely on the general opinion expressed in mercantile circles respecting these suspensions:—

The stoppages at Liverpool are still the subject of much conversation here; and, we regret to say, although circumstances certainly would warrant it, that there is very little sympathy expressed among more cautious mercantile men. They deprecate the recklessness of those parties who bring into disrepute the commercial standing in Liverpool, and stamp it with too much of the former Yankee go-a-head principle, which is becoming unpopular, even in America. Indeed, if we look to the wholesome warnings of the New York press, we shall find that it neglects no opportunity to inculcate caution, and expose over-trading. We would affect no semblance of commercial puritanism, nor argue, for a moment, that speculation must not, to a certain extent, enter into all mercantile dealings. The advantage of consumers is concerned in energy and in a fair risk of capital, and we should never desire that undue restraint should be imposed; but we do think, in the interest of those who are trading fairly upon their own means with such moderate amount of bank assistance as is requisite, as regards every mere adventurer, as well as every party who, with moderate resources, aims at establishing an enormous business in an incredibly short space of time, there should be more frequently a check imposed upon such practices. The drawing and re-drawing of bills without any security offered—in fact, mere

accommodation paper—ought to excite the suspicions of the local banks, especially where it is so easy to trace the origin of the persons concerned in its manufacture. Even if the firm has been long and honourably known, and has earned a character by former consistent trading, to its full share of support and accommodation, suspicions must arise when its bills multiply, and it departs from its usual method of doing business, by giving and taking longer credits than usual. What is publicly now stated with regard to the system of buying and selling ships at Liverpool, is enough to account for any such casualties as those which have lately occurred; but we feel a special satisfaction in believing, from the opinions we have heard expressed by Liverpool men themselves, that such speculative transactions do not find countenance, except in a few quarters there, and that, on the contrary, a jealousy has existed upon seeing parties of inadequate means outstripping the sound trader, and apparently making a rapid fortune under the unfair competition which his faculties enable him to originate.

The *Shipping and Mercantile Gazette* thus alludes to the Liverpool failures, and furnishes some information relative to their origin.

We regret to find that the late failures of Messrs. Allen and Anderson, McHenry, and Oliver, are likely to be more serious in their results than was first expected. The several establishments appear to have caused considerable difficulties in Dublin, and many firms are likely to be heavy sufferers there; and the losses among tradesmen on both sides the channel will, we fear, be extensive. It is to be hoped that these failures will prove a lesson to the joint-stock banks and discount houses, who may be said to have encouraged this unsound system of credits, introduced, we believe, from America. Mr. Oliver may be said to have taken, with red ink and paper, a fleet of 104 sail, of some 40,000 tons. The whole system of colonial ship-building appears to be unsound; and hence it is placed in what may be deemed unfair competition with the shipbuilders of the outports. The sooner this state of things is remedied the better. The extent and importance of the failure of Mr. Oliver may be seen from the following list of creditors, to each of which we affix a number instead of a name, each number representing a firm:—

LIST OF MR. OLIVER'S CREDITORS, SECURED AND UNSECURED.

No. 1	£120,000	No. 15	£10,000
2	60,000	16	10,000
3	60,000	17	10,000
4	45,000	18	9,000
5	32,000	19	8,000
6	25,000	20	7,000
7	25,000	21	6,000
8	25,000	22	5,000
9	25,000	23	2,000
10	20,000	24	800
11	20,000	The Public	100,000
12	15,000		
13	15,000	Total	700,000
14	11,000		

Still, we do not agree in the opinion that the failures to which we refer—especially that of Mr. Oliver—are likely to lead to a succession of similar disasters; and the following statement, which we copy from the *Liverpool Standard*, is so much in accordance with our own views, that we cannot do better than give it space in our columns:—

"So many conflicting statements have been made with reference to the affairs of Mr. Edward Oliver, that it is difficult to form a correct opinion; but it is of the highest importance that danger should not be created by groundless apprehensions. As far as concerns the estate of Messrs. McHenry and Co., there seems little reason to doubt but that it will prove extremely unfavourable to the creditors; and it is reported that some other houses, particularly in Ireland, have failed in consequence. This fact, coupled with the stoppage of Mr. Oliver, has led to the expression of fears that the example will be contagious, so that before Christmas we may witness something of a commercial panic. Had the present failures been occasioned by a serious depreciation of any important mercantile commodity, there might have been some grounds for apprehensions; but the fact is notoriously otherwise. All the great markets have been unprecedentedly steady, fluctuations in price have been comparatively slight, and, with very few exceptions, the amount of business done has been well maintained. In whatever way the affairs of Mr. Oliver may be arranged, the loss, if any, is directly attributable to his immense speculations on insufficient capital, and his suspension of payments ought not to affect the credit of any other house, though it may, in some degree, embarrass those who have been most largely concerned with him. Commercial panics have always been distinctly traced to the operation of markets affecting the many interested, and never to the recklessness of one house, however large its transactions, where the failure is clearly traceable to individual conduct. If it be true, as has been asserted, that the liabilities of Mr. Oliver have been incurred for investments in shipping, which is a species of property not immediately realisable, no reasonable depreciation can more than slightly affect the ultimate interests of creditors: however apparently large, the difficulty will be one of time rather than amount; its worst effect will be upon those who are large owners of shipping, though it cannot apply to those who have it profitably employed. But it is folly to contend that it can, in any way, affect the numerous mercantile firms whose operations are in commodities which bear their full value in the markets, and where there is no prospect of a falling off, either in price or quantity. For these reasons, we deprecate indulgence in unnecessary fears, which in too many instances are the cause of their realisation."

CIRCULATION OF FICTITIOUS WARRANTS.

THE trial of Mr. Joseph Windle Cole, a merchant, lately carrying on business in London, under the firm of Cole, Brothers, took place at the Central Criminal Court, on Wednesday, the 25th of October, when he was, after a lengthened investigation, found guilty of obtaining large sums of money through the circulation of fictitious warrants. This case, it will be remembered, excited considerable interest at the period of the failure of the firm, from the discovery then made of the manner in which the accused, with other parties, had, for a long time supported their credit; and the facts entered into prove that a deep-laid conspiracy must have for some time existed, by which they have been enabled to carry out these frauds. The prosecution was conducted by Mr. Bodkin, and the prisoner was defended by Mr. E. James, Q. C. No witnesses

were called in his behalf; and the plea advanced in his favour was, that he had been deceived by Mr. Maltby, the wharfinger, who has absconded, and through whose connivance these spurious documents appear to have been issued. The evidence produced on the prosecution was merely a repetition of that which has already been published in the police reports, and therefore need not be given at length. Having been tried and found guilty on the 25th, the prisoner was called up for judgment the following day, when he was sentenced to four years' penal servitude.

The Chief Baron, addressing the prisoner, said that he had been convicted of obtaining money by false pretences; the false pretence being that he had deposited as valid securities fictitious warrants referring to goods that were not in existence, and by this means he had obtained in one instance the sum of ten thousand pounds. He (the learned judge) entirely agreed with the verdict, and considered it was clearly made out that when he gave these warrants he was perfectly well aware that they were of no value. The evidence went to show that this was not the only occasion on which a similar fraud had been committed, and he could not conceive a more dangerous offence than this on a commercial community. Thousands of persons who had the excuses of poverty, bad education, and bad example, were punished for acts of dishonesty; and in the case of a person like the prisoner, the act was most aggravated, and he considered it the worst description of crime that was brought under the notice of a court of justice. He therefore felt it to be his duty to award the full punishment fixed by the law for such a crime, in order that his example might deter others from the commission of similar offences, and that it might also be known that the magnitude of a man's transactions in business, or his position in life, would be no mitigation, but that when a conviction for such an offence took place, the same punishment would be awarded as in the case of a person of the most humble description. He then sentenced the prisoner to four years' penal servitude.

AMERICAN MANUFACTURES.

THE development of American industry, through the cultivation of cotton, tobacco, and grain, as well as through its general mercantile resources, is so well known and appreciated, that not the least comment is required in reference thereto. The manufacturing interests of the states have latterly acquired increased importance from the evident progress made in the production of textile fabrics, which, if we are to credit all that is asserted of them, will vie with any description of

foreign handicraft. New England, one of the great seats of this enterprise, is rapidly rising in consequence, and the combination of capital with the latest improvements in machinery, derived from the mother country and the continent, bid fair to place its productions in a prominent position, not only before the Americans themselves, but also before the world.

An interesting paper has just appeared in the *United States Economist* on this subject, introducing the history of the erection of the New Pacific Mills; and as the chief promoter and supporter of the undertaking is the Hon. Abbott Lawrence, whose mission to this country was productive of much benefit in cementing the friendly relations existing between the two Governments, a condensed narrative will, we think, prove interesting. It is a point of some importance to notice that, in America, the banking system is made to co-operate in a remarkable manner with the progress of these undertakings, and that, also, education and social improvement are stimulated by the establishment of libraries and proper dwellings for the use of the workpeople.

The success and progress of manufacturing in New England is one of the marvels of the day. The sagacity, skill and boldness with which capital has been applied to the combination of all that science and the arts can furnish for the conversion of raw materials into human clothing, have been well rewarded in the attainment of the greatest triumphs. The new Pacific Mills, just erected in the city of Lawrence, Massachusetts, is an eminent example of this. The Merrimack River, issuing from the "Notch" of the White Mountains, pursues its course through New Hampshire and North-eastern Massachusetts, driving many a mill; and after setting Lowell in motion, it divides, fourteen miles further towards the sea, the town of Methuen from Andover. Ten years since, the portions of these two towns, which border the river, were barren and profitless soils, without cultivation, inhabitants or dwellings of any kind; at that time a company, called the "Essex," with the Hon. Abbott Lawrence at its head, was formed, with 1,000,000 dolls. Boston capital, which had been mostly earned in the industry of Lowell, up the stream. This company bought, at a low figure, the bed of the stream with a mile each side, making three miles by two. They put a dam across the river, which "backed" the stream eight miles up the country. They diverted a portion of the stream into a canal which they built, running parallel with the river, and some five hundred feet distant from it. This canal being higher than the river affords, in the descent to it, an almost limitless extent of power. They then built the Essex machine shop, which attracted some people upon the land. The Bay State Mill was then projected, with a capital of 2,000,000 dolls., for the manufacture of wool. The reputation of its shawls is spread far and wide. It consumes some 3,000,000 lbs. of wool per annum, and has been eminently successful. The next mill built was the "Atlantic," of large capacity and great success. These, with similar improvements, have converted the sandbanks of the Merrimack into a city of 12,000 souls. Streets are laid out in the most approved manner. Its houses are uniformly three-story brick, built with the

utmost regard to health and comfort. Its numerous churches and public buildings are of the most substantial and tasteful structure, and everything betokens thrift and prosperity. The new mill, of which we are about to speak, was projected two years since, and it is a synopsis of all the experience which has made others so profitable, added to all that Great Britain and Western Europe can supply of improvement in the multiplied branches of spinning, weaving, dyeing and printing. The capital is 1,000,000 dolls., with the right to extend to 2,000,000 dolls. We learn that, since the return of the Hon. Abbott Lawrence from England, the original plan of the mill has been much extended, until it is now the largest and most comprehensive mill in the world. Among the original stockholders was Mr. Munroe, of the firm of Little, Alden & Co., of Boston and New York, a gentleman of great experience. That gentleman, with Mr. J. S. Young, a stockholder, and of great experience in manufactures, proceeded to Europe for the purpose of diligently collecting all improvements of value in worsted and cotton spinning in the old world. The information so collected, added to the experience at home, has been with ample means and judgment applied to the new mill. The goods produced here are delaines and printed calicos, staple articles for which the demand is always ample; at the same time that the machinery can be adapted promptly to any fancy article that may become the rage, and as readily revert to its staple uses. The site of the new mill is 1,000 feet square. On one side passes the Maine Railroad, crossing the river and canal at right angles. The latter, being 100 feet wide, runs 1,000 feet in front of the works. On the border of the canal is the street and corporation railroad, 60 feet wide. The lawn, 100 feet wide, separates the street from the main building, which is 800 feet front, six stories high, each ceiling being 12 feet in the clear. On the rear of this building and between it and the river, stand the print works, 1,000 feet in length. Flanking these two buildings, on the railroad, is the storehouse for all raw materials, a building 250 feet in length. On the opposite flank is a building 350 feet in length, containing the folding and packing rooms, with the offices, cashier's room, library, lecture room, &c. The motive power is now 500 horses, and may be extended indefinitely by multiplying the number of Turbine wheels, which are the most approved construction. The floor surface of this immense structure is sixteen acres—the largest mill in England is eleven and a half acres. There are now in operation 40,000 cotton spindles, and 10,000 worsted spindles; these are to be increased to 80,000 and 20,000 respectively. There are 1,200 looms in operation, to be increased to 2,400. These, with 2,000 hands, produce 300,000 pieces of cloth per annum, one-half delaines. The weekly consumption of cotton is 20,000 lbs., say 1,500,000 lbs. per annum, and 500,000 lbs. wool. Once a month the two thousand hands assemble at the cashier's office, where Mr. Clapp pays out 50,000 dolls. to them for wages, apportioning to each one the exact amount she has earned. The money used is the bills of the Bay State Bank, at Lawrence. The capital is 500,000 dolls. The circulation so paid out to the operatives remains

out about fifty days. The Savings Bank, at Lawrence, has 823 depositors, to whom belongs 121,000 dolls.—an average of 150 dolls. Such is the general outline of this magnificent corporation.

It will be gathered, from the brief sketch we have made of the situation of the buildings, that their relative situation to each other is progressive. The railroad that passes the storehouse, delivers there the raw materials, which go from room to room, and building to building, becoming changed in their natures, combined with each other, constantly assuming new shapes—now apparently destroyed and worthless, anon giving more promise, until the foul bag of greasy wool which went in at one door could no longer be recognised in the superb delaines which issue from the other, directed to Little, Alden & Co., for sale.

The Pacific Mills produce 150,000 pieces each of calicos and delaines in the course of a year, from 1,500,000 lbs. of cotton and 500,000 lbs. of wool. The cloths so produced are of a quality perhaps superior to any other American production as yet, for several reasons. 1st. The mill is projected by the oldest and most successful manufacturers in the whole country. 2nd. The capital is ample to avail of every improvement known to science and the arts. 3rd. The great experience of Messrs. Munro and Young for years was applied to the collection of all those improvements in England and on the continent. 4th. The machinery is all of the best description and in the newest style. 5th. The managers of the departments are as celebrated as any in the profession. 6th. But perhaps the most important of all is the connection of the house of Little, Alden and Co. with the mill, for the direction of the styles of goods to be made, and their ultimate disposition. It is obvious that the wool may be bought, spun, wove and printed in the best and most scientific manner, yet, if a tasteless and absurd pattern appears upon its face, the labour, time and money expended upon it are utterly lost.

We have devoted so much space to the description of a New England mill, because of the vast importance such works have been to that section. We have stated that what was ten years since a sand bank, is now a beautiful and thriving city of 16,000 inhabitants. This is mostly brought about by the employment of a class of persons who, elsewhere, are dependent and destitute—we mean young females. Throughout New England, farmers' daughters have found ready and profitable employment. It is now the case that the demand for labour is great, and that foreign operatives multiply, imparting more of the appearance of a foreign manufacturing town; but it is the case that the character of these foreign operatives is raised. They live in comfortable quarters, and acquire a taste for reading. The Pacific Mills has a fine library, and, in the last week, 500 persons from the mills took out books—such a thing would be hard to be found in Manchester. There is no reason why this species of industry should not be extended to other states and localities.

EXPORTS OF BULLION.

A PARLIAMENTARY return has just been published of all gold and silver coin and bullion exported during the last half-year, and also during the preceding six years. It is, however, of little statistical value, since it does not include either the quantities transmitted by private channels to the continent, or those taken out by emigrants to America and Australia, which constitute a large proportion of the yearly efflux. The following are the principal figures :—

EXPORTS OF COIN AND BULLION TO ALL PARTS IN EACH YEAR FROM 1848 TO 1853, AND IN THE HALF-YEAR ENDING JULY 5, 1854.

Years.	Gold.			Silver.		
	British Coin.	Foreign Coin and Bullion.	Total.	British Coin.	Foreign Coin and Bullion.	Total.
	ounces.	ounces.	ounces.	ounces.	ounces.	ounces.
1848 ..	227,577	176,422	403,999	696,337	27,470,039	28,166,376
1849 ..	210,426	98,905	309,331	277,600	30,608,571	30,886,171
1850 ..	229,431	439,288	668,719	259,481	17,203,631	17,463,112
1851 ..	481,838	550,724	1,032,562	699,683	19,637,065	20,336,748
1852 ..	590,767	520,199	1,110,966	490,589	23,387,971	23,878,560
1853 ..	589,298	2,685,637	3,274,935	279,208	24,340,691	24,619,899
Half-year ending July 5th, 1854 ..	69,860	2,353,563	2,423,423	55,314	13,190,454	13,245,768

THE LAWS OF THE CURRENCY.*

THE question of the effect of the laws of 1844 and 1845, in connexion with the country circulation, has been ably treated in a paper read by Mr. J. W. Gilbart, before the British Association for the Advancement of Science, at Liverpool, in September. This essay the talented author has issued in a pamphlet shape, and it will well repay perusal, the whole subject being brought under consideration in a manner calculated to attract universal attention. Mr. Gilbart analyses the statistics which he has selected with considerable power, and clearly demonstrates the anomalies of the existing system. The pamphlet itself, consisting of twenty-four closely-printed pages, prevents us from giving

* *The Laws of the Currency, as exemplified in the Circulation of Country Bank Notes in England since the passing of the Act of 1844.* By J. W. Gilbart, F.R.S., being a paper read before the British Association, at Liverpool.

full extracts, but the following will show the conclusions the author arrives at on a comparison of the country circulation of England with that of Scotland and Ireland.

We will now compare the country circulation of England with the circulation of Scotland and Ireland. On looking over the rows of figures denoting the circulation of England, Scotland, and Ireland, we may observe that since the act of 1844 the laws of the currency, as affecting their monthly variations, are the same as before. In England the circulation is high in April and low in August. In Scotland it is low in March and high in November. In Ireland it is high in January and low in September. These have occurred with so much uniformity during the last ten years, as to show the operation of fixed causes. At the same time the annual amount of the circulation shows the operation of local causes connected with the circumstances of the respective countries. In Ireland, in consequence of the famine, the circulation fell considerably below the authorised amount. The authorised issue formed upon the average of the year ending May 1, 1845, was £6,354,494. In the year 1849 the actual issue was so low as £4,310,283. In Scotland the authorised issue was £3,087,209; but in consequence, it is presumed, of the briskness of trade, and the sums expended in constructing public works, the actual issue has usually been higher than the authorised amount. This requires explanation. It may be asked, "How can a bank exceed its authorised issue?" We reply, that not only are the laws of the currency different in Scotland and Ireland from what they are in England, but the laws of the State are also different. In England, should any bank exceed its authorised issue, it would incur a penalty equal to the amount of the excess; but in Scotland and Ireland a bank may exceed its authorised issue, provided it has in its coffers an amount of gold equal to this excess. But why this difference should exist is a question not easy to answer. It is said that Bank of England notes are not a legal tender in Scotland or Ireland, and hence they keep sovereigns—a very satisfactory reason as regards Scotland and Ireland. But why should not England have the power of issuing against Bank of England notes? It may be said that the English banks may issue Bank of England notes if they please, and thus reduce their own circulation. Precisely; and the banks of Ireland and Scotland may issue sovereigns if they please, and thus reduce their circulation. Why, then, should not the English banks be permitted to extend their circulation against Bank of England notes, in the same way as the banks of Scotland and of Ireland can extend their circulation against sovereigns? By this means the English bankers would be relieved from much anxiety in regard to the amounts of their notes in circulation, and rendered less liable to the heavy penalty they may now incur. It is true that in certain seasons the amount of country notes in circulation would be larger, and those of the Bank of England would be less. But then the notes of the Bank of England, instead of being in the hands of the public, would be in the tills of the bankers. This arrangement would place the country bankers of England upon the same footing as those of Scotland and Ireland.

But there is still another difference in the laws of 1844 and 1845, with reference to England, and to Scotland and Ireland. In Ireland and Scotland two banks of issue may unite, and the united bank have the united circulation. In England, if two banks of issue, either of which has more than six partners, should unite, the circulation of one or both of these banks would be lost. Unions of banks in either Ireland or Scotland are not very likely, nor perhaps desirable. The banks are large, have a respectable capital, and enjoy the public confidence. In England many banks are small and have small capitals. Union among them would be highly beneficial. Yet such is the

waywardness of legislation, that the acts of 1844 and 1845 give facilities to unions in Ireland and Scotland, and restrict them in England. There is another difference between England and Ireland. If any banks cease to issue, the Bank of England may extend her issue to two-thirds of the amount withdrawn. In a similar case, the Bank of Ireland may extend her issues to the whole amount thus withdrawn—Why this difference? We do not know.

But the most important circumstance in which the banks of Scotland and Ireland differ from those of England, is in their power to issue notes under £5. That portion of our currency in England which is under £5 consists of gold and silver coin. And it may, under present circumstances, be worth while to inquire.—Suppose we should have a protracted war, and be compelled to export our gold, either to subsidise foreign powers, or to maintain our fleets and armies abroad, what additional supply of gold could we obtain by means of issuing £1 notes? I do not think we can get any certain reply to this question; but there are some inquiries that may assist our reasonings on the subject. First, we may inquire, when the Bank of England issued small notes, what proportion did the notes under £5 bear to the amount of the whole circulation? That establishment issued such notes from the year 1797 to the year 1821. We find that the highest proportion was in the years 1815 and 1816. On the last day of February in those years the circulation stood thus—

	Notes under £5. £	Notes of £5 and upward. £	Total Circulation. £
1815	9,035,250	18,226,400	27,261,650
1816	9,001,400	18,012,220	27,013,620

Here we find that the notes under £5 were about half the amount of those of £5 and upwards. This was in 1815, nearly forty years ago, and when the notes were issued only in London. Now, it will thus be seen that in 1815 and 1816, the notes under £5 were about half the amount of those of £5 and upwards. Supposing, therefore, in round numbers, that the Bank of England circulation is now £20,000,000, then in the same proportion she might maintain a circulation of £10,000,000 of small notes. But we must remember that during the last forty years, the population, the trade, and the wealth of the nation have vastly increased. And if pecuniary transactions were conducted in the same way, the notes in circulation must have increased in proportion. But, in consequence of the more general use of bills of exchange, the extension of banking accounts, the more frequent changes between country bankers, and the operations of the clearing-house in London, a smaller amount of bank notes is now necessary. All large transactions are now settled, not by notes but by bills, and cheques, and transfers. But these banking facilities which diminish the demand for large notes, do not in the same proportion diminish the use of small notes. On the contrary, from the great increase in the labouring population, and the necessary increased extent of retail trade, the demand for small notes to pay wages and to settle small transactions, must, during the last forty years, have greatly increased. Seeing, then, that the demand for large notes has diminished, and the demand for such currency has increased, it seems reasonable to suppose that were the Bank of England now to issue small notes, the amount in circulation would bear a higher proportion to the large notes than was the case forty years ago.

I have already stated that we have no returns of the amount of the country circulation previous to the year 1833. But we have the number of notes stamped of different denominations, and we find that in years 1820 to 1825, the amount of notes stamped under £5 varied from 37 to 50 per cent., making an average of 44 per cent. of the whole circulation. This makes

the small notes nearly equal in amount to the large ones. But here again it is probable that the small notes remained out longer than the large ones. A greater proportion of the large notes were probably in the banker's till, and a larger proportion of the small notes in the hands of the public. It seems probable, therefore, that the amount of small notes in active circulation was usually higher than the amount of large notes. And if the Bank of England, whose issues were made only in London, and whose circulation was chiefly in London and Lancashire, maintained one-third of her circulation in small notes, it seems likely that the country banks, whose notes were issued in almost every town and village in the country, would maintain a much higher proportion than even one-half. If we look to the present state of the circulation in Ireland and Scotland, we shall find that the small notes form the larger proportion, and the amount furnishes no confirmation of the doctrine that small notes diminish in wealthy countries. Scotland is a wealthier country than Ireland, yet has a larger proportion of small notes. And the north of Ireland is wealthier than the south, yet the banks of Belfast have a larger proportion of small notes than the banks of the south. From the former circulation of the Bank of England, the stamps issued to the country bankers, and the present circulation of Scotland and Ireland, we have, then, materials for forming an opinion as to the amount of small notes that might be maintained in circulation in England; and though we cannot fix the amount with that precision which the science of statistics requires, yet after putting the facts and reasonings together, we seem warranted in drawing the conclusion that the amount would not be less than thirty millions; and, consequently, we have the power, when necessary, of releasing from their present duties, thirty millions of sovereigns, and employing them for national purposes elsewhere.

The charter of the Bank of England will expire at the termination of twelve months' notice, which may be given by the Government, at any time after the 1st day of August next. It is not the object of this paper to examine any of the enactments of the act of 1844, that have a reference to the Bank of England. But when the subject is brought under consideration, means should be employed to obtain some modification of those clauses that have a reference to the country banks. The country circulation should be preserved in its integrity—should be rendered capable of expansion, so as to meet the demands of a more numerous population, extended commerce, higher prices, and increased taxation—its issue should be allowed to be regulated by the demands of trade and agriculture in the respective districts in which the banks are established, and should be rendered as much as possible free from the operation of the foreign exchanges.

We find that in 1844, when the country circulation had greatly declined, we took the actual circulation of the then existing country notes, and made it a maximum circulation—an arrangement which necessarily, from the fear of incurring penalties, reduced the amount of the actual circulation below the maximum. We apply this maximum to a circulation that fluctuated very much in different parts of the year. If, then, we keep below the maximum in April, we necessarily fall much lower in August. We divide this maximum among 277 banks, and impose heavy penalties upon every one that shall exceed his portion of the maximum—a circumstance that tends to reduce still farther the actual circulation. No one is forbidden to reduce his issue as low as he pleases; and if he abandons it altogether, only two-thirds can be supplied, and that by permission of the Government; and then only upon the application of a bank whose head quarters are in London, who is to get nothing by the operation, and whose issues are governed by laws which have been declared by the country bankers to be inapplicable to the operations of a local currency, and unsuitable to the requirements of domestic industry.

This maximum must never be exceeded, while those banks that previously issued Bank of England notes, are not allowed to resume their own circulation, and no new bank of issue is allowed to be established. The result of this arrangement has been, that an authorised issue in 1844, of £8,648,853, is now reduced to an authorised issue of £7,942,466, and that the actual circulation is generally below £7,000,000, and has been below £6,000,000; while every banker, in certain seasons of the year, has been compelled to watch the issue of his notes, lest he incur those enormous penalties which attend even the accidental violation of the act.

In endeavouring to remove these inconveniences, we would be governed by a regard to the spirit of the act of 1844, and attempt only to correct its practical defects. Among the modifications that may be suggested, perhaps the following may deserve a special consideration:—That the present maximum, which applies to an average of four weeks, should apply to an average of twelve months;—that all the banks who had formed agreements with the Bank of England, and whose compensation will cease in 1856, should then be allowed to circulate their own notes to the amount to which they had circulated Bank of England notes;—that the country circulation should not be less than the amount fixed by the act of 1844, and that the deficiency of £706,387, which has since taken place, should be redistributed among the country banks (whether at present issuing or non-issuing) in the district in which the deficiency has taken place;—that we adopt the enactments of Scotland and Ireland, by allowing the existing banks of issue to extend their issues beyond their fixed amount, provided they have gold, either at the head office, or at any of the branches, equal to the amount of the excess; and, as Bank of England notes are a legal tender in England, and can be converted into gold upon demand, they might, in this instance, be placed upon an equality with gold;—that banks of issue, not having more than six partners, be permitted to continue their fixed issue in the same locality, even should they increase their partners to a greater number than six; and that this regulation be made retrospective, so as to include all unions of banks of issue with other banks, that have taken place since the year 1844; and further, that we adopt the law of Scotland and Ireland, by allowing two or more banks of issue, whatever may be the number of their partners, to unite and retain the united amount of issue of all the united banks. With reference to the issue of notes under £5, we think that is a question for the consideration of statesmen, and its adoption must depend upon the political circumstances of the country. As long as Australia can supply us with gold sufficient to meet our foreign requirements, and to maintain our domestic currency, probably we had better remain as we are. At the same time, it may be useful to know that, in case of necessity, we have here a magazine from which we may draw a large supply of the sinews of war.

EUROPEAN SPECIE MOVEMENTS.

To the Editor of the Bankers' Magazine.

SIR,—Contemporary with the report alluded to at the head of the accompanying article, there appeared in the "*Revue de deux Mondes*," for February last, a very able paper, from the pen of M. André Cochut, entitled "*L'Or sur le Marché Européen*;" and, presuming that the subject may prove sufficiently interesting for publication in the pages of your valuable periodical, I have taken the liberty of forward-

ing you a translation of some of the views and theories of this ingenious writer.

September 22, 1854.

I am, sir, your obedient servant,
W. C.

"COMPTÉ ANNUEL" OF THE BANK OF FRANCE FOR 1853.

From a note appended to the above remarkable document, it appears that the total imports of the precious metals during the past year exceeded the exports by 184 millions (francs); but that the quantity of gold in circulation had been augmented by 287 millions, and the silver diminished by 103 millions; so that a displacement of silver by gold had been effected to the extent of 103 millions, whilst the gold had been increased by the additional sum of 81 millions. Of the total amount of gold imported into Europe in 1853, France appears to have absorbed upwards of £12,000,000.

N.B. This statement, however, must be accepted with some degree of reservation, in consequence of the official documents from which it is compiled not comprehending the whole of the specie movements.

If this operation (*viz.*, the depreciation of gold) should be prolonged, and the French Government does not modify the established legal proportion between the two metals, in the course of seven or eight years the whole of the silver coinage will be exported. In the present remarkable superabundance of the precious metals, France is doubly menaced—in the first place, by an unusual augmentation of prices generally, a fatality against which the administrative authority is impotent; and secondly, by its monetary system, which has ceased to be in harmony with the commercial principles (*faits*) of the age,—the standard prototype of the French system, it is known, consists of a *mètre* made of platinum, and deposited in the archives. Let us suppose that, in place of a single model, it had been found convenient to deposit two constructed of different metals, and for some unforeseen cause it now occurred that the two types ceased to preserve a perfect equality; the effect which would be produced upon commerce in consequence, can be readily imagined. Every one would be endeavouring to sell with the shortest measure, and to buy with the longest one; and this is precisely the character of the perturbation with which the commercial world is threatened. Gold and silver employed simultaneously, as measures of value, are susceptible of alternate contraction and elongation, their relative proportions undergoing a continual modification consequent upon the abundance of the metals, together with the law of supply and demand, &c. Under these circumstances, therefore, it becomes the duty of every one, by a careful examination, to endeavour to ascertain to what extent their commercial interests may become compromised by these eventualities.

And here it may not be out of place to take a glance at the prudential measures already adopted by many countries with reference to this subject.

The monetary system of the United States of America (constituted in 1792) admitted originally the legal existence of both the precious metals, in the proportion of one to fifteen: but gold at this period being worth more than fifteen times its weight in silver, did not long remain in a country where it was thus undervalued.

In 1834, the proportion was changed with the avowed design, says an American financier, of attracting gold in preference to silver, when the course of exchange should conduce to the importation of the precious metals; and this system was continued in force up to the date of the Californian discoveries. But now a difficulty presented itself; the Americans were by no means desirous of driving away the gold from a country where the metallic currency was barely sufficient for the prosecution of its monetary transactions, and furnished, moreover, an inadequate equivalent or guarantee for the

amount of paper in circulation; but, on the other hand, the depreciation of gold appearing sooner or later inevitable, they were naturally fearful of preserving it at a fictitious value, and thereby occasioning the exportation of the other metal. In this dilemma, therefore, a mixed system was adopted, the effect of which was to limit the issue, and diminish the weight of the silver pieces; but, at the same time, to preserve their nominal value. In virtue of an Act of Congress, which came into operation on the 1st of June, 1853, the silver dollar was suppressed, in order to popularize the circulation of the dollar of gold. The weight of the half dollar, quarter, dime, and half dime being reduced a little less than 7 per cent. This change established between the two metals the legal proportion of 1 to 14.45, instead of 1 to 16, which before existed.

At this rate, 10 half dollars containing 111 grammes 922 millièmes of pure silver, and worth intrinsically, according to the French tariff, 24 francs 87 centimes, equivalent to an eagle of 5 dollars, containing 7 grammes 520 millièmes of pure gold, which, according to the legal tariff, would be worth 25 francs 90 centimes, a French merchant making a remittance to the United States in silver, would realize a profit of 4 per cent. less the freight and insurance. Upon these terms, however, the American treasury has announced its readiness to purchase silver, under pretext of the necessity which it experiences for the recoinage of its half dollars.

The monetary reform which has recently been effected in the low countries, was already settled in principle before the announcement of the Californian discoveries. Upon the reunion of Holland and Belgium, each of the northern provinces reserved to itself the right of coining its own money—the southern portion of the kingdom at the same time having adopted the French system; hence arose a circulation incongruous in the character of the pieces composing it, as well as embarrassing, for the purposes of commerce, which demanded a system at once uniform and normal.

This grand operation was executed with the firm sagacity which distinguishes all the political acts of the Dutch Government. The unit of the new system is the silver florin (exact value 2 francs 10 cents.); silver alone constituting the legal currency. Gold pieces are regarded only as the deniers of commerce, the *légende* indicating their weight and title, but not their monetary value. The system is the most normal, and, under present circumstances, perhaps the most prudent of any in the world.

The demonetisation of gold in Holland obliged Belgium also to resort to some measure of self preservation. A law of the 28th December, 1850, suspended the coinage of gold pieces, and further authorised the Government to put a stop, in case of need, to the legal tender of those which had already been issued, to the amount of 14½ millions of francs. At the same time the circulation of foreign gold money was prohibited at its legal title; like the deniers of Dutch commerce, it was received only voluntarily, and according to its intrinsic value. It must be remarked, however, that up to the present time the Belgian Government has not made use of its authority to demonetise the national gold coins; such an extreme measure will doubtless only be resorted to whenever the gold becomes notoriously depreciated.

Great Britain is, perhaps, less exposed than other countries to monetary fluctuations,—gold being there the single measure of value, and almost the sole element of calculation. Its legal valuation—i. e. the rate fixed by the Mint for determining its intrinsic value as money, is so low, that it rules almost invariably under the market price of the metal. Silver also is not a legal tender for more than forty shillings. From these circumstances, it results that until now no inducement has existed for attracting the gold, beyond reselling it at a profit to strangers. Under the English system, the coinage of silver being an unfavourable operation, in consequence of the impost with

which it is accompanied, the supply of this money devolves, in almost every instance, upon the Government,* through the intermediation of the Bank of England. The sacrifices entailed upon it, in consequence, become every day more onerous. The small silver pieces disappear as rapidly as they are issued; and it is believed by many that, in order to arrest the continual exportation of silver, it will become necessary to reduce the weight of the coins, as in the United States, and to limit the tender to 20s.

In France, the only acts have hitherto been negative ones. A commission appointed in 1851, to inquire into the matter, declared the fall in the value of gold to be accidental, and that no cause whatever for inquietude existed. The Bank of France gives pieces of 20 francs only in exchange for its notes, for the purpose of limiting the exportation of its 5-franc pieces; and, in order that the scarcity of money might not affect the movement of the exchanges, Government at length proceeded to coin 5-franc pieces in gold, a little less in diameter than those of 20 centimes, but weighing 612 milligrammes more. The future, however, may convince them of their error in not having at once prevented the evil, by adopting silver for the only monetary standard, before the other metal had entered so largely into general circulation. It is a dangerous error to suppose that the substitution of gold for silver (which, from the circumstance above mentioned, many persons have been disposed to regard as a "*fait accompli*") is a matter of so much indifference to France. Every system of monetary numeration reposes on a unit, of which all the other quantities are either fractions, equivalents, or multiples. The unit of the English system is the pound sterling of gold—that is to say, a weight of 7 grammes 318 millièmes, = $113\frac{1}{3}$ grains in pure gold. Debtors and creditors, natives and foreigners, all know that they must either give or receive this weight, whatever may be the variations in the commercial value of the metal. In France, the monetary unit is a weight of 4 grammes and a half fine silver, called a franc—gold being only an equivalent to which the law attributes a value $15\frac{1}{2}$ times greater. Let us then endeavour to realise our position, supposing all the silver were abstracted. The effective unit of the system having disappeared, we should be left only with the multiples, which would consequently cease to bear a proportion with the vanished unit. In all sales effected with the foreigner, the returns would be made in an equivalent altered to our prejudice, the exchange being calculated in silver, worth more, and payment made in gold, worth less. Extended to all the operations of commerce, the loss would amount to an enormous total; each milliard of silver replaced by a similar quantity of gold would inflict upon our country an actual loss of 40 millions; the price of merchandise would be raised necessarily to the amount of the difference between the intrinsic value of the old and the new money. Theoretically considered, the most prudent course would be to adopt, as in Holland, a single monetary standard, and to preserve for a normal element of circulation that description of metal to which the country has been longest accustomed; but theory in matters of finance is proverbially difficult of execution. Gold has already entered into the circulation too abundantly to render any increase in the value which the law assigns to it, practicable: such, at least, would seem to be the opinion of those commissioned to observe the condition and movements of the great metallic depôts. It is probable, therefore, that an arrangement will be made to preserve the legal existence of the two metals; in which case, two modifications of the present system appear to us inevitable. In the first place, the weight

* Our author is here in error; silver coin is minted at the rate of 5s. 6d. per oz. = 66s. per lb. standard,—which gives a seignorage of a little more than 6 per cent. The coinage of the new silver currency is therefore retained exclusively in the hands of the Government.

of the silver pieces must be reduced as in the United States, without which that description of coin would inevitably be exported to the last franc; and, secondly, it will be necessary to take the monetary unit in that metal likely to circulate in greatest abundance—i. e., to settle that the franc, for the future, shall contain a certain weight of gold, if gold is destined ultimately to predominate.

One of the inevitable effects of the superabundance of gold is witnessed in the increase of the coinage in all commercial countries. In France, however, this phenomenon is especially remarkable. Subjoined is a table showing the amount (in francs) coined during the last twelve years in England, France, and the United States.

England.

	Gold.		Silver.
From 1841 to 1847	f.105,814,250	....	f.9,112,450
„ 1848 „ 1850	51,014,900	....	2,367,750
„ 1851 „ 1852	164,283,762	....	3,469,550

United States.

„ 1841 „ 1847	f.4,129,700	....	f.12,197,625
„ 1848 „ 1850	77,704,800	....	10,453,275
„ 1851 „ 1852	288,654,697	....	3,807,372
1853 (first ten months) ..	251,059,929	....	16,658,202

France.

From 1841 to 1847	f.4,244,031	....	f.72,190,286
„ 1848 „ 1850	50,665,896	....	128,131,720
1851	269,709,570	....	59,327,308
1852	27,028,270	....	71,711,560
1853	312,964,020	....	20,099,488

The above figures furnish some very important observations. England will be seen to have coined much more gold than ordinary, and nearly three times less silver. The coinage of silver in comparison with that of gold, from 1841 to 1847, was at the rate of 8 per cent., whilst the proportion during the last-mentioned period has not greatly exceeded 2 per cent. The same result is visible in the returns made by the United States. Previously to 1848, the sum coined in silver was three times greater than that coined in gold. In 1851 and 1852, the inhabitants of California have struck 80 times more gold than silver. But in France the contrast is still more striking, considering that the system there in operation has, perhaps more than any other, silver essentially for its base. During the seven years preceding the discovery of gold in California, the issue of silver exceeded that of gold by 17 times: in 1845, the gold coinage fell even to 119,140 francs. In 1848, the circulation is computed to have consisted of 20 times less gold than silver; during the succeeding five years, there have been issued 723 millions of gold; and, allowing for the exportation of both species of metal, the present circulation may be stated at about two milliards in silver and from 800 to 900 millions in gold: this latter metal therefore, instead of being as formerly in the proportion of a twentieth, represents in reality a third of our metallic treasures. The issue of gold in 1853 exceeded that of the other metal by 293 millions; and it is to be presumed that a sum of silver nearly equal to the excess has passed away to foreign countries, to the no small advantage of the exporters.

This strange phenomenon (viz., the disappearance of the silver coin) manifests itself especially in the balance sheets of the great credit establishments.

The following is a very significant document.

STATEMENT of the Bank of England, exhibiting the Progressive Diminution of Silver and Augmentation of Gold for the Seven Years ending 1853 (value in francs).

Years.	Gold.	Silver.	Total.	Proportion of Silver.
1847	f.332,084,725	f.66,704,575	f.398,789,300	17 per cent.
1848	296,656,525	38,449,475	325,106,000	11½ "
1849	352,571,225	36,843,250	389,414,475	9½ "
1850	406,719,275	18,797,725	425,517,000	4½ "
1851	361,321,450	9,431,025	370,752,475	2½ "
1852	431,841,100	7,097,425	438,938,525	1½ "
1853	511,517,075	1,676,975	513,194,050	½ "

Until the discovery of America, or rather that period when the treatment of silver ore by mercury in the process of amalgamation first became general, a pound of gold was ordinarily exchanged against 10 or 11 times its weight in silver; the latter metal, therefore, has lost in value in proportion as its price has since become lowered. At the beginning of the nineteenth century, the course was regulated upon the basis which it has ever since maintained, with little or no deviation, and which attributes to gold a commercial value 15 or 16 times greater than that of silver. When this proportion was introduced into the different monetary systems, we received annually 36 kilogrammes of silver against one kilogramme of gold. Let us now proceed to show, in a tabular form, the changes which have taken place since that epoch.

PROPORTIONAL Quantities of Gold and Silver produced since the Commencement of the Century until the Present Time.

Years.	Quantities produced, in Kilogrammes.*		Proportion of Quantities.	
	Gold.	Silver.		
1800	23,809	855,856	1 of gold to 36	of silver.
1842	49,649	882,883	1 "	17½ "
1850	152,730	954,955	1 "	6½ "
1851	185,279	973,000	1 "	5½ "
1852	290,360	990,100	1 "	3½ "
1853	309,233	1,018,000	1 "	3½ "

It results from this statement, that, instead of extracting every year 36 kilogrammes of silver against 1 kilogramme of gold, the produce at present is only 3½ to 1, or proportionally about 11 times less than at the commencement of the century. After all, however, it must be acknowledged that gold has not, as yet, depreciated in value as might have been apprehended from this enormous difference. In London, the regulator of all other markets, it declined a little in 1851; in the course of the following year, 1852, it regained and preserved its former level; but in 1853 it fell again, to an extent to show a comparative

* The kilogramme is equal 2 lbs. 3 oz. 4½ drams English (Avoirdupois), or 21b. 8 oz. 3 pen. 3 grs. Troy. The pound Troy consists of 5,760 grains, equal 373 grammes and 202 decigrammes; the pound Avoirdupois equals 7,000 grains Troy, or 453·544 French grammes.

loss of three to four per cent. These variations, too slight to be perceived by the public generally, but attentively noted by a certain class of speculators, suffice to explain that which the English denominate the drainage of silver. It is said that at the present time there are individuals engaged in the traffic of the precious metals spread over the whole of Europe, on account of certain great houses, and that the business executed by them is of a most profitable description, particularly in Sweden, Norway, and the small Italian states. What then, it may be asked, becomes of all the silver? It finds its way in part to those countries where the gold has already become demonetised, as for instance Holland and Belgium. It is sent also to the East, and to the new auriferous countries where a necessity for this description of money exists. Above all, however, the United States afford an important outlet, in consequence of the depreciation which has been effected in the weight of their silver pieces, to the extent of about 7 per cent. For example, supposing a French merchant at the present time purchased grain at New York to the value of a million of dollars (about 5,300,000 francs), for which he undertook to pay in cash; if he could succeed in retiring from the French circulation enough five-franc pieces to settle the amount in silver, he would be a gainer of 212,000 francs, independently of his other profit on the transaction.

NOTE.—In 1852, the price of gold in London was 66 centimes per cent. dearer than in France; for the same reason, the coinage of this metal was ten times less in the latter country than in the preceding year.

During the past year, those who converted into pieces of 20 francs the *lingots d'or*, to which the French law attributed a value of 3 per cent. above the commercial price, have realised on the mintage of 313 millions a profit of 9,390,000 francs.

THE BANK OF FRANCE.

THE following was the debtor and creditor account of the Bank of France on the 12th of October:—

	ASSETS.	F.	C.
Cash and ingots		325,990,855	95
Cash at the branch banks		151,085,336	0
Bills due yesterday to be paid to-day		369,317	97
Bills becoming due in Paris of which 55,711,495f. 21c. are from the branch banks		110,289,371	89
Bills in the branch banks		145,126,598	0
Advances on coin and ingots		765,600	0
Ditto in the branch banks		805,833	0
Ditto on public securities in France		20,939,836	10
Ditto in the branch banks		5,982,100	0
Ditto on railway shares and bonds		42,705,400	0
Ditto in the branch banks		14,411,400	0
Ditto to the State by treaty of June 30, 1848		65,000,000	0
Rentes of the reserve fund		10,000,000	0
Rentes of disposable funds		55,448,559	82
Hotel and furniture of the bank		4,000,000	0
Real property of branch banks		3,809,320	0
Expenses of administration		832,451	20
Sundries		74,084	13
		F.957,636,064	6

LIABILITIES.							F.	C.
Capital	..	..	..	..	..	..	91,250,000	0
Reserve fund.. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	12,980,750	14
Reserve immobilière..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4,000,000	0
Notes to bearer in circulation	..	..	..	..	..	..	486,440,800	0
Ditto of branch banks	..	..	..	..	..	..	146,132,250	0
Ditto to order (post-bills)	..	..	..	..	..	..	5,898,752	91
Bills payable at sight	..	..	..	..	..	..	10,974,429	0
Accounts current of Treasury creditor	..	..	..	..	..	..	45,292,593	49
Various accounts current	..	..	..	..	..	..	112,624,300	58
Ditto in branch banks	..	..	..	..	..	..	28,036,835	0
Dividends to be paid..	..	..	..	..	..	..	794,511	25
Discount, interest and expenses	..	..	..	..	..	..	4,116,843	81
Charge for safe keeping of securities	..	..	..	..	..	..	17,856	5
Rediscounts of the last half-year	..	..	..	..	..	..	916,188	68
Overdue bills.. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	183,107	88
Sundries	..	..	..	..	..	..	7,976,845	27
							F.957,636,064	6

From these returns it appears that the metallic reserve has declined both in Paris and in the branch banks—in the former 2,750,000*f.*, and in the latter 18,500,000*f.* The discount accommodation has increased both in Paris and in the departments—3,250,000*f.* in the former, and 11,250,000*f.* in the latter. Advances on public securities have advanced 1,500,000*f.* in Paris, and have declined 250,000*f.* in the provinces. Advances on railway securities have advanced 2,500,000*f.* in Paris, and 750,000*f.* in the departments. On the side of the liabilities, the notes in circulation have increased both in Paris and in the departments, the augmentation being 21,250,000*f.* in the former, and 5,000,000*f.* in the latter. The account-current of the treasury has decreased 25,000,000*f.* Private accounts-current have declined 2,000,000*f.* in Paris, and 6,000,000*f.* in the provinces. The whole amount of the metallic reserve is at present 477,000,000*f.* to 632,500,000*f.* of notes in circulation.

TRADE OF THE UNITED KINGDOM.

THE Board of Trade returns for the month ending the 5th of September were issued on the 3rd of October, and constitute an exception to those of nearly all the preceding months of the year, as they show a falling off of £449,130 in the declared value of our exports as compared with the corresponding month of 1853. This state of affairs, however, will have been anticipated from the diminished activity of the American trade, consequent upon the commercial pressure in that country. The more moderate nature of the shipments to Australia is likewise exercising an influence since the exports of ready-made clothing and other articles under the name of haberdashery, although still large, are much smaller than in the same month of last year, when their value had reached to little short of half-a-million. The principal diminution on the present occasion is in metals, but linen, silk, and woollen manufactures are likewise on the unfavourable side. Cotton goods exhibit an increase, which is the more important as the prices of the raw material have been lower. The subjoined table gives the exact increase or decrease in the shipments under each head:—

DECLARED VALUE OF EXPORTATIONS.

Month ending Sept. 5.	1853.	1854.	Increase.	Decrease.
Alkali—viz., soda	£43,143	£36,787	—	£6,356
Beer and ale	91,586	85,797	—	5,789
Butter	31,085	45,388	£14,303	—
Candles	12,068	22,066	9,998	—
Cheese	12,820	4,853	—	7,967
Coals and culm	179,723	196,393	16,670	—
Cordage and cables	22,451	29,327	6,876	—
Cotton manufactures	2,191,239	2,298,131	106,892	—
Cotton yarn	595,268	550,071	—	45,197
Earthenware	142,885	113,022	—	29,863
Fish	66,715	64,812	—	1,903
Glass manufactures	48,172	53,519	5,347	—
Haberdashery and millinery	494,400	385,403	—	108,997
Hardwares and cutlery	325,464	338,540	13,076	—
Leather... ..	135,332	124,079	—	11,253
Linen manufactures	444,022	349,449	—	94,573
Linen yarn	116,052	52,191	—	63,861
Maclinery	209,763	202,215	—	7,548
Metals	1,564,465	1,386,486	—	177,979
Oil and seeds	62,043	51,418	—	10,625
Painters' colours, &c.	32,718	30,082	—	2,636
Salt	28,282	28,320	38	—
Silk manufactures... ..	157,604	98,271	—	59,333
Silk, thrown	14,255	15,443	1,188	—
Silk, twist, and yarn	20,220	33,394	13,174	—
Soap	16,479	22,285	5,806	—
Stationery	57,930	73,415	15,485	—
Sugar, refined	32,945	16,923	—	16,022
Wool, sheep or lambs'	47,653	104,342	56,889	—
Woollen manufactures... ..	942,286	878,395	—	63,891
Woollen yarn	158,018	156,939	—	1,079
Total... ..	8,297,086	7,847,956		

The aggregate value of our exports during the first eight months of the year has been £59,653,150, against £58,158,729 in the corresponding period of 1853, showing an increase of £1,494,421, or $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., which has occurred in the following order:—

Month ending	Increase.	Decrease.
February 5	—	£368,748
March 5	£344,784	—
April 5	993,572	—
May 5	—	747,527
June 5	409,457	—
July 5	934,908	—
August 5	377,105	—
September 5	—	449,130

As compared with the like period of 1852, there has been an increase of £12,644,004.

With regard to imported commodities, the chief feature is, of course, the great diminution in the arrivals of foreign grain and flour. In other respects there is little for remark. The consumption of tea, sugar, cocoa, spices and tobacco has been large. Wines exhibit a falling off;

but in the consumption of spirits there has been a moderate increase, the imports, at the same time, owing to the demand for rum for the navy, showing a special augmentation.

Subjoined are the quantities of provisions, &c., imported and taken for home consumption : —

Month ending Sept. 5.	Imported.		Home Consumption.	
	1853.	1854.	1853.	1854.
Grain, wheat, quarters	546,925	198,058	546,925	198,058
Grain of other descriptions, qrs . .	276,168	261,899	276,168	261,899
Indian corn, quarters	173,565	62,847	173,565	62,847
Flour and meal, cwt.	381,723	228,314	381,723	228,314
Provisions—Bacon, pork, lard, cwt.	59,438	94,092	Free.	Free.
Butter and cheese, cwt.	92,772	80,598	88,042	80,850
Animals, No.	38,894	46,529	Free.	Free.
Cocoa, lb.	416,830	962,416	328,848	340,251
Coffee, British, lb.	3,046,961	6,223,853	2,401,744	2,421,835
Ditto, foreign, lb.	935,831	328,062	568,449	497,562
Total coffee	3,982,792	6,561,915	2,970,193	2,919,397
Sugar—				
West India, cwt.	269,861	273,657	289,749	247,747
Mauritius, cwt.	93,189	140,339	74,728	58,134
East India, cwt.	32,878	45,449	95,629	29,369
Foreign, cwt.	309,131	426,281	228,274	380,936
Total sugar	705,059	885,726	688,380	716,186
Tea, lb.	6,770,981	2,741,294	4,653,090	5,022,041
Rice, cwt.	213,127	186,382	68,321	59,667
Spirits gallons	491,986	1,033,332	385,858	429,411
Wines, gallons	959,247	786,487	606,018	540,680
Opium, lb.	10,632	3,512	4,438	5,953
Tobacco, lb.	3,165,739	628,670	2,375,212	2,441,806
Currants, figs and raisins, cwt. . .	48,595	5,314	20,150	25,521
Lemons and oranges, bushels . .	6,445	3,298	7,522	3,376
Spices, lb.	309,932	927,871	329,782	397,193
Ditto cwt.	167	534	233	197

The following are the comparative imports and exports of raw material, showing a diminution in flax and tallow, but an increase in hemp, owing to the stimulus given by the war to the supply of jute from India :—

Month ending Sept. 5.	Imported.		Exported.	
	1853.	1854.	1853.	1854.
Flax, cwt.	214,372	134,447	—	—
Hemp, cwt.	122,176	180,408	—	—
Raw silk, lb.	651,750	430,562	62,971	79,727
Cotton, cwt.	829,598	622,362	180,074	110,219
Wool, lb.	16,472,124	15,812,869	1,548,715	3,004,482
Tallow, cwt.	110,529	60,893	—	—

Of silk manufactures the totals stand thus :—

Month ending Sept. 5.	Imported.		Home Consumption.	
	1853.	1854.	1853.	1854.
Silk manufactures of Europe, lb...	71,313	88,571	55,925	89,585
Ditto, of Indian pieces	71,601	24,644	11,390	16,223

The importations of other articles during the month have been on a varied scale. There has been an increase in most kinds of dyes and dyeing stuffs, and also in all descriptions of oils, except whale oil. Timber, both British and foreign, has arrived likewise in increased quantities, and the consumption of the former exhibits an improvement. Of glass manufactures the quantities taken continue to be enormous. Leather manufactures present no great variation during the month; but the tendency during the year has been towards a decrease. In the supply of metals there has been a falling off in each kind, except iron.

Banking and Commercial Law.

ON THE POWER TO BORROW POSSESSED BY JOINT-STOCK BANKS.

WE shall proceed now to examine the principles which are either established or shadowed forth in the important case of *MacLae v Sutherland*, given at length in a former number.

It may be useful to bear in mind that, in one sense at least, there cannot be the slightest doubt about the power of a joint-stock bank to borrow money. It is established by many decisions, that money placed in a banker's hands is money lent to the banker, and is subject to all the rules which regulate ordinary loans. The identity of the money is gone, there is no trust created, and the statute of limitations applies. Now, as the essential feature of a banker's business is the receipt of other parties' money to return when demanded, or, as in the case of deposits for terms, at such time as may be mutually agreed upon, it is obvious that the bare carrying on of a bank implies, to this extent, a power to borrow. The money lodged and deposited in this way with a joint-stock bank may be so great as to be amply sufficient for all purposes, without any further borrowing. It has never been supposed that this money remained idle in the chest of the bank. On the contrary, it is well known that it is employed in discounting and in lending, and that thereby the profits of the bank are created. These positions are simple but important, and we apprehend that they are free from doubt. If they are carried a little further, they may help to establish transactions relating to loans to joint-

stock banks on a more satisfactory basis than (from some of the passages in the judgment of *MacLae v. Sutherland*) they now appear to rest. For instance, it has never yet been contended that the customer of a joint-stock bank who lodged money at the bank, no matter how large in amount, and thereby became a lender to that bank, could run the risk of losing his remedy against the bank for the recovery of his money, in case the directors misapplied it by using it in some manner that the deed of settlement did not authorise. A customer of a bank cannot tell what is done with his money after he has placed it in the bank. He knows it is not kept there idle, as the bank could make no profit. If he did know that the directors contemplated using it in some unauthorised speculation, such knowledge could lead to no useful result, as he would have no power to interfere with them, further than to withdraw the money, which it is presumed would always be ready for him when required, until the final stoppage and failure of the bank.

Bearing these positions in mind, it seems strange that any difference should be made between the case of one class of lenders to a joint-stock bank and any other class; and yet it seems, from the case of *MacLae v. Sutherland*, that the party who lodges money at a bank, and thereby lends it to that bank, is yet in a very different position to the party who expressly lends it to the bank as a loan, and not as a lodgment or deposit.

The Court says, "in the present case, the transactions out of which these notes arose cannot be considered to have been in the ordinary course of banking business. The money was originally borrowed to be used as capital, and the securities were not such as would be usually taken for an ordinary loan to a banking company." And, for these reasons, the Court considered that it was incumbent on the lenders to show, either—first, that there was some extraordinary course of business described in the deed; or, second, that there were some extraordinary powers conferred on the directors; or, third, that there had been a ratification by the shareholders of the acts of the directors: and if the lenders could not show one or other of these three things, they must lose the money they had lent to the bank. In the case in question, it will be seen that the lenders were fortunate enough to range themselves under the first of these categories, and so succeeded in making good their claim. But why should this be required? Once allow that a joint-stock bank can borrow money, and the lender ought to have no responsibility of examining the details of deeds of settlement, or criticising the powers of directors, or getting the ratification of shareholders. Nothing can be more flimsy and unsatisfactory than the reasons the Court gives for a different

rule. They are two—first, that the money was originally borrowed to be used as capital; and, second, that the securities were unusual. As regards the first, what does it signify to the lender what the money is to be used for, and how can he possibly see that the managing body, having once got it, do what they professed they intended to do with it? Surely this is a question for the shareholders and the managers to settle between themselves, with which the lenders can and ought to have nothing to do.

The second reason is like unto the first, or even less satisfactory. What can the nature of the securities given signify? If there were no securities at all given, there would not be the less a loan. A security is nothing but a piece of evidence. A million of money may be paid into a bank as a cash credit or deposit, and no security is given, although this is a loan. A security may be a judgment, a bond, a bill of exchange, a note of hand, or a mere I O U; but the loan is a loan, and nothing more or less, whatever may be the security given for it.

On the whole, we think that the case of *MacLae v. Sutherland* shows that the law on the powers of joint-stock banks to borrow money is in an unsatisfactory state, and that, in order to make such a power useful to the bank and secure to the lender, the latter ought to be exempt from all responsibility for the application of his money, and to have nothing further to do in the case of a joint-stock bank than to be sure he deals with the duly constituted managing body.

THE NEW STAMP LAW.

WE have collected some of the observations of the editor of the City article of the *Times*, and the correspondence which has appeared in that journal, respecting the last Stamp Act. When the authorities have seen it necessary in one important instance to correct an opinion they have previously given, it is clear the subject is not free from doubt; and doubt, in matters of this kind, is of the most serious consequence.

In the instance we have referred to, we quite concur in the corrected opinion. The words of section 6 of the act are, "If any person shall, within the United Kingdom, draw and issue any bill of exchange payable out of the United Kingdom, purporting to be drawn in a set," &c. On referring to our last number, it will be seen that Mr. Keogh says, "Section 6 applies to foreign bills drawn and payable abroad, if negotiated in this kingdom." It is plain the words "drawn in the United Kingdom," would not include a bill drawn out of the United Kingdom; and therefore the word "issue," being the only other word used in the section, must be that on which Mr. Keogh then relied. Perhaps a bill may be drawn abroad and issued here, but we do not consider

that the word *issue* is synonymous with the word *negotiated*. The act says, however, "draw and issue;" and the plain grammatical reading of this is, that both the acts of drawing and issuing must be done here, to bring a case within the words of the section.

The use of the penny draft stamp, or drafts drawn abroad, payable to order or to bearer on demand, at least, after being issued, was probably not contemplated, and may prove, if sustained, an advantage to banking and commerce, and some compensation for the taxes and annoyances the new act has caused. We are not satisfied this is right. With these remarks, we shall submit the extracts we have made to our readers:—

Various points in connexion with the working of the new Stamp Act continue subject to discussion, and the following note, stating an amended interpretation of the scope of the sixth clause, has been received at the Bank of England from the Stamp-office. The object of this clause was to enforce, under a penalty of 100*l.*, the drawing and delivering of the whole number of a set of bills in all cases where the instrument purported to be drawn in a set, but a question arose whether it applied to bills drawn abroad and payable here as well as to bills drawn here and payable abroad. Under date the 28th of August, Mr. Keogh answered that it applied to "foreign bills drawn and payable abroad *if negotiated* in this kingdom, as well as to foreign bills drawn in this kingdom payable abroad." Subsequent consultation with the law officers of the Crown, however, has established a different view, which will create much less disturbance to mercantile usage and convenience:—

"Inland Revenue, Somerset-house, London, Oct. 16.

Sir,—I have to refer to the Board's communication to you, dated the 28th of August last, in answer to your letter of the 26th, containing several questions relative to the Stamp Act, 17 and 18 Victoria, c. 83, in which communication it was stated that section 6 of the act applies to foreign bills drawn and payable abroad, if negotiated in the United Kingdom.

I beg leave to acquaint you that the matter has since undergone further consideration; and, having been submitted to the law officers of the Crown, they have advised that the operation of the clause in question is confined to bills drawn and issued within the United Kingdom, and payable abroad.

I have the honour to be, sir, your obedient servant,
J. R. Elsey, Esq." THOMAS KEOGH."

The annexed letter from Mr. Wood, the chairman of the Board of Inland Revenue, relates to two other questions, also submitted from the Bank—namely, whether a certain form of cancellation adopted by that institution is sufficient, and whether the amount of duty to which a bill is liable may be made up by the use of two or more stamps. In both cases the reply is in the affirmative, as far as the opinion of the Board is concerned, although, of course, in case of litigation, the construction of the terms of the act can be authoritatively settled only by a court of law:—

"Inland Revenue, Somerset-house, London, Oct. 16.

My dear Sir,—In reply to your letters of the 14th and of this date, inquiring, first, whether the Board consider that the printed form adopted by the Bank of England for the cancellation of adhesive foreign bill stamps be a sufficient compliance with the act of Parliament, and, secondly, whether

the amount of duty to which a bill of exchange is liable may be denoted by two or more stamps, I beg to state, in reference to the first question, that, so far as the Board is concerned, the use of the printed form in question will be considered a sufficient compliance with the act.

The Board will not require that the whole of the name, or firm, or date shall actually be upon the stamp, and will esteem it sufficient if those particulars be written or printed across the stamp, notwithstanding a portion of such writing or printing may not be actually upon it.

The object of cancellation is to prevent the use of a stamp for more than one bill; and, provided this be effected, even by initials and date, the Board certainly will not prosecute, and no prosecution can be instituted, excepting by the Board.

I must, however, distinctly state that the Board cannot, by any regulation, or the expression of any opinion, remove difficulties that may arise between the parties to a bill. Its validity, so far as the parties are concerned, must, in case of doubt, depend on the interpretation which may be put by a court of law on the terms of the act.

In reply to the second question, I have to state that there is nothing in the act to prevent the required amount of duty being made up by several stamps.

I am, dear sir, yours most faithfully,

M. Marshall, Esq."

JOHN WOOD."

The working of the new stamp law is gradually becoming understood; but a variety of questions, of considerable importance to the mercantile community, still present themselves, and will continue to do so for some little time. Among the communications on the subject received to-day, is one from the London and Westminster Bank, conveying, for the information of the public, the answer of Mr. Keogh to their inquiry as to the proper stamp to be affixed to documents of the following character:—

"Foreign and Domestic Exchange Office,
New York, Sept., 1854.

1,000*l*.

On demand pay to Messrs. Brown and Co., or order, the sum of ten hundred pounds for value received, and charge the same to account with or without advice.

To the London and Westminster Bank."

In this case the reply is, "that the draft, being payable to the persons therein named or to order on demand, is liable to the duty of one penny only, whatever may be the amount thereof."

A private banking firm have likewise forwarded an answer received by them to an inquiry whether foreign bills drawn from abroad and payable in England "on presentation" are liable to the *ad valorem* duties imposed by the schedule, or, under the third paragraph of such schedule, to the duty of one penny only, as bills on demand. In this case the answer is, that "bills of the description referred to are liable to the *ad valorem* duty."

Annexed is another letter, from which it will be seen that the bankers are needlessly applying the new *ad valorem* stamps to that large class of drafts received in this country from America, to enable poor persons to emigrate to their relatives:—

"London, Oct. 19.

Sir,—We are in the habit of paying considerable amounts daily on drafts upon us from New York, which in great part consist of sums remitted by emigrants to enable their poor relatives in this country to join them. A large proportion of these drafts are presented for payment by London bankers on account of their country agents, and since the 10th of

October have had stamps attached, bearing the same rate of duty as bills payable otherwise than on demand.

Feeling that an *ad valorem* duty on such bills would be a great hardship to the parties concerned, we addressed a letter to the Board of Inland Revenue on the subject, and beg to hand you the reply as at foot.

We may add, in explanation, that the old forms of drafts made the amount payable 'at sight,' but those now in use merely advise us to 'pay to the order of' the payee.

Yours respectfully,

JOHN AND EDWARD CORDEROY."

"Inland Revenue, Somerset House, London, Oct. 17.

GENTLEMEN,—With reference to your letter of the 11th inst., transmitting a form of draft drawn from New York, and requesting to be informed as to the stamp duty with which it is chargeable, I am directed to inform you that drafts at sight drawn at New York are chargeable with duty as bills payable otherwise than on demand.

I may observe, however, that bills drawn according to the form enclosed in your letter are not bills payable at sight in terms, but, being silent as to the time of payment, are really payable on demand, and would therefore be subject only to the penny duty.

I am, gentlemen, your obedient servant,

Messrs. J. and E. Corderoy."

THOMAS KEOGH."

Instances of neglect on the part of the Government in making provision for the working of the New Stamp Act, have formed a subject of further complaint in the city. Foreign bills have been remitted to bankers from their country correspondents without the stamp that is necessary to make their delivery legal,—this offence against the act, which involves a heavy penalty, being a consequence of the inattention of the authorities to their proper business, and not of any error elsewhere. It appears that in some of the most important districts the stamp distributors have not been provided with any stamps, and consequently, that the firms requiring them for their daily transactions have had the trouble of applying for them in vain, and have been absolutely unable to comply with the law. The cases mentioned have occurred at Bury St. Edmund's and Chelmsford, the principal inland towns of Suffolk and Essex.

The following communication has been received, also relating to the New Stamp Act:—

"6, Copthall-court, Oct. 18.

Sir,—We enclose the annexed correspondence to serve for general information. You will observe that the third question has been misunderstood, but is satisfactorily disposed of by the previous answers.

We are, sir, your obedient servants,

R. RAPHAEL & SONS."

"6, Copthall-court, Throgmorton-street, Oct. 12.

Sir,—We request your interpretation of the effect of the New Stamp Act in the following cases which have actually occurred and are pressing for decision:—

1. Amsterdam remits to London *second and third* of bill on Madrid (600*l.*), drawn from Iserlohn in Prussia—the drawer having sent the first for acceptance to be claimed by endorsed second or third.

The Spanish post being considered unsafe, the buyer in London requires both second and third.

Will the rate of the Inland stamp suffice for the second, delivering and marking the third (second stamped 7s. 6d.)?

2. Amsterdam sends to London in same remittance a similar bill of 300*l.*, *first and second*. Will a *copy* of the first, stamping each 1*s.*, fulfil the intention of the law as to the third, or may it be treated as in the first case?

3. In the first or second cases, having only two bills of a set, can the inland rate of stamp be divided in *halves* to be applied to each—say on 350*l.* two at 2*s.*, instead of three at 1*s.* 4*d.*? (There are no exact equivalents in some cases.) The most practicable method, if it is consistent with the law, will be the full stamp to *one* of the set, and the annotation on the other, as practised abroad.

R. RAPHAEL & SONS."

Thomas Keogh, Esq."

"Inland Revenue, Somerset-house, London, Oct. 16.

Gentlemen,—I have laid before the Board your letter of the 12th inst., requesting information on three questions therein submitted.

In reply to the 1st, I am directed to acquaint you that the proper stamp is 2*s.* 6*d.* on each of the two bills.

To the 2nd, that the proper stamp is 1*s.* on each of the two bills.

To the 3rd, that, if a bill be drawn in a set of two, each part is liable to the same duty as on an inland bill of that amount.

THOMAS KEOGH."

Messrs. R. Raphael & Sons."

A question having arisen in connection with the New Stamp Act, on the day on which it came into operation, whether bills due before the 11th of October, and either not presented for payment until the 11th, or dishonoured and taken up after the 10th, would come under its operation, the points were brought before the Secretary of Inland Revenue in the following form:—

"Are the following brought within the operation of the act?—

"A foreign bill due on or before the 10th of October, but not presented for payment until after that day.

"A foreign bill due on or before the 10th of October, presented and dishonoured, but taken up after the 20th."

And the following is the answer received:—

"The duty is payable in both instances. The words of the 5th section, 17th and 18th of Victoria, c. 83, are, 'If any person shall present for payment or shall pay any such bill, &c.' The act of presentation or the act of payment after the 10th requires that the stamp should be at the time affixed."

Legal Miscellany.

THE CHARTERED BANK OF INDIA, AUSTRALIA, AND CHINA.—
NORMAN V. MITCHELL.

Court of Chancery, July 27.—Before the LORDS JUSTICES.

THE LORDS JUSTICES gave judgment in this case, which had come before the court on an appeal from the decision of the Master of the Rolls, and in the

form of a motion for an injunction to restrain the defendants, who are the directors of the Chartered Bank of India, Australia, and China, from enforcing a call made on the 17th of February, 1854. The original prospectus of the company stated that the capital was to consist of £1,000,000 in 50,000 shares, of £20 each, with power to increase to 8,000,000; that the constitution of the company was to be embodied in a deed of settlement; that a charter, giving limited liability, would be applied for; and that the management of the company would be vested in a board of directors, to be elected by the shareholders. On November 16, 1852, a deed, being the subscribers' contract, was executed by the plaintiff and other shareholders, which recited that a petition had been prepared for a charter; that 32,000 shares had been allotted, and that the remainder were to be reserved until after the charter had been obtained; and that each subscriber had paid a deposit of £2 per share; and it contained a covenant by the subscribers to pay the calls which should be made in respect of their shares, and to execute the deed of settlement thereafter to be prepared. It appointed a provisional board of directors, until a charter should have been obtained, and provided that they might be named as directors in the deed of settlement. It also empowered the board of directors to make calls as soon as the charter should have been sealed. On the 20th September, 1853, the charter of the company was sealed. On the 27th February, 1854, the defendants gave notice of a call of £2 per share, payable on the 20th of March, and stated that the deed of settlement would be ready for execution on that day. No one was allowed to execute it until the call was paid. About fifty shareholders had executed it; but the plaintiffs, who represented about 18,000 shares, had not done so, being of opinion that it was not desirable to proceed with the undertaking, and also by reason of clauses introduced into the charter not in accordance with the original scheme, as stated in the prospectus. The plaintiffs, in their bill, prayed that a proper deed of settlement might be prepared, and that the defendants might be restrained from enforcing the call, or declaring a forfeiture of shares. The Master of the Rolls held that the provisional board of directors had power, under the subscribers' contract, to make a call in the interval between the sealing of the charter and the execution of the deed of settlement, and had, however, refused the motion for an injunction. The appeal had been heard with the assistance of Mr. Justice Cresswell and Mr. Justice Erle, who had given their opinions upon the question of law submitted to them. These opinions established substantially the validity of the deed of settlement, and that the directors had exercised properly the powers vested in them by the subscribers' contract, but they did not think that the forfeiture of shares had been made in compliance with the terms of the deed.—Lord Justice Knight Bruce expressed his sense of the assistance which the learned judges had given the court, and the order which would be made would be to leave the order of the Master of the Rolls undischarged, the defendants to be at liberty to bring such action as they might be advised, and an injunction to restrain them from declaring any other shares forfeited until further order, with liberty to apply. The costs to be costs in the cause.

JUDGMENT.—*ORR AND OTHERS v. THE UNION BANK OF SCOTLAND.*

House of Lords, August 7.

The House sat this morning to deliver judgment in an appeal in which their lordships had taken time to consider the case, and to hear the arguments of counsel in another appeal.

The peers in attendance were the Lord Chancellor, Lord Brougham, Lord Roden, and Lord Strangford.

This was an appeal from the Court of Session in Scotland. The appellants are William Orr and Alfred Barber, merchants in Liverpool, James Tassie, merchant in Glasgow, their mandatory, and Charles Campbell, merchant in Glasgow; and the respondents are the directors and manager of the Union Bank of Scotland. It appeared that the late John Gordon Campbell, merchant of Glasgow, was in the habit of dealing with Messrs. Orr and Barber, of Liverpool, and became indebted to them in £460 9s., and, being about to pay that sum, he, on the 22nd of October, 1844, deposited in the Union Bank of Glasgow the sum of £460 9s., to be paid to Messrs. Orr and Barber, in Liverpool, and at the same time filled up the usual printed blank slip, in the following terms:—

“ Union Bank of Scotland,
22nd of October, 1844.

583 “Wanted credit on Liverpool for £460 9s., payable to Messrs. Orr and Barber.”

In return for his money, Mr. Campbell received from the bank a letter of credit, which is admittedly in the following terms:—

“ Union Bank of Scotland,
Glasgow, 22nd of October, 1844.

No. 15,583, A.A. “Please to honour the drafts of Messrs. Orr and Barber to the extent of £460 9s., which charge to the bank.

“ I am your very obedient servant,
“ JA. WATSON, Cashier.

“ £460 9s. Ent'd. M.G.H.

“ To the Manchester and L'pool District Bank,
Liverpool.

“ Not transferable.”

The Union Bank did not write to the Liverpool District Bank that this letter of credit had been granted, as they ought to have done. But the very day on which it was granted, Mr. Campbell transmitted it by post, under cover, to Orr and Barber, at Liverpool. It so happened that when the letter reached, or should have reached, Liverpool, both Mr. Orr and Mr. Barber were absent. Mr. Barber conducted the business of the company at Buenos Ayres, and had been for many years resident abroad. Mr. Orr, whose department was to conduct the business at home, was absent in Ireland. He went there on the 18th, and returned on the 31st of October, 1844, having been absent for only twelve days. Orr and Barber had only one clerk in the counting-house in Liverpool, Mr. F. R. Smith, who was, of course, left in charge of the office in Mr. Orr's absence. The letter enclosing the letter of credit appeared to have reached Liverpool in due course. On the 25th of October, 1844, Smith advised Mr. Campbell of its receipt. Mr. Orr returned to Liverpool on the 31st, within a week of the arrival of the letter. On going to the counting-house, he found Mr. Campbell's letter advising the remittance, but the letter of credit was gone. He then went to the District Bank to make inquiries, and, if possible, to operate on the credit; but he was then informed that the money had been already paid on a draft or order previously presented. He immediately answered that no draft or order had been drawn by him or by the firm of Orr and Barber, and that no payment had been made on account of the firm. The District Bank did not

refuse payment at the time, but, seeing that they had been imposed upon by some one who had forged Orr and Barber's signature when Mr. Orr was from home, they requested time to consider whether, notwithstanding the previous payment, they would honour Mr. Orr's draft in the name of the firm. In consequence of the absconding of Mr. Orr's clerk, Smith, with a sum of money of his employers', it was supposed that the payment of the draft was obtained by him. Messrs. Orr claimed payment of the sum in question from the Union Bank, and an action was brought to enforce the payment; Messrs. Orr's agent in Glasgow, and Mr. John Gordon Campbell's executor being parties to it. The ground of the action was that the Union Bank failed to do what they undertook—viz., to establish a credit for the £460 9s. with the Liverpool Bank in favour of Messrs. Orr, and that it did not accept or fulfil the mandate contained in the letter of credit, and did not honour the drafts of Messrs. Orr, and that they refused to give credit to the Liverpool Bank for the £460 9s., as being paid on their account, and that they had still in their hands, unaccounted for, the sum paid to them by the late John Gordon Campbell. The defenders maintained that the letter of credit having been duly delivered at the place of business of Messrs. Orr, according to the previous arrangement, Campbell's debt was thereby discharged, and that, Messrs. Orr having no further claim on him, he had no right to sue; and that Campbell's debt to Messrs. Orr having been thus discharged, Messrs. Orr had no claim against the bank, in consequence of the nonimplement of the terms of the letter, there being no privity of contract between the bank and Messrs. Orr. The Court of Session decided in favour of the then defenders, the Union Bank, inclining to the opinion that the liability, if any, attached to the English bank. The present appeal was then brought. The appellants contended that it was competent to the person who obtained a letter of credit in favour of another, to countermand payment at any time before the money was actually paid over, or some binding engagement was entered into by the person to whom the letter of credit had been addressed, with the person in whose favour it was drawn, so as to give the latter a remedy by action after such engagement against the former; and it was plain that there was no such payment or engagement in the present case, because the draft upon the Liverpool Bank was a forgery; that it was no engagement on which Messrs. Orr could sue, because their clerk was not acting by their authority in his dealings with the Liverpool Bank, and that they had not ratified his acts, nor could they without ratifying all, including the felonious receipt of the money; that the amount paid for the letter of credit was recoverable as upon a failure of consideration; and that the Scotch bank were in the position of agents employed to pay over money who had not paid it over, or engaged with the intended payee to pay it over, and were therefore bound to return it on demand. The respondents urged that the appellants did not show any contract which had been broken by them, and that they had not fulfilled the conditions which would have entitled them to maintain this action.

The Lord Chancellor now, after having gone through the facts of the case, moved that the interlocutor of the Court below be reversed.

Judgment accordingly.

IN RE JOSEPH WINDLE COLE.

Court of Bankruptcy, Basinghall-street, October 6. (Before Mr. Commissioner EVANS.)

This bankrupt was a merchant in Birchin-lane, trading under the firm of Cole Brothers. The debts are large. About £35,000 have been already

proved. The bankrupt is in custody on the charge of fraudulently obtaining money on dock warrants, and was brought up from Newgate by an officer, for the purpose of surrendering to pass his examination.

Mr. Murray, for the assignee, said that Mr. Hutton, the bankrupt's accountant, had gone into his accounts, and was of an opinion that an adjournment for two months was necessary. It was desirable in the meantime that there should be an examination of the bankrupt in private.

The Commissioner objected.

Mr. Murray said that it would not be advantageous that the bankrupt should be examined in public. There were reasons for the examination being taken in private.

The Commissioner.—Give me the reasons in writing, and I will consider them.

Mr. Murray handed them to the Court.

The Commissioner.—Very well; this can wait.

Mr. Murray.—No, it cannot. The bankrupt is here in custody waiting to be examined.

The Commissioner.—Wait till 3 o'clock, and I will then take the examination in private.

Examination taken accordingly.

From a preliminary statement of the bankrupt's affairs, it would appear that the unsecured debts amount to £178,000; the partially secured debts to £74,000. The amount of assets is uncertain, depending much on the realisation of consignments.

IN RE MACKENZIE, CAMERON, AND BOYLE.

Court of Bankruptcy, Basinghall Street, October 12. (Before Mr. Commissioner EVANS.)

THE bankrupts were merchants, of St. Helen's-place. His Honour gave judgment on their application for certificates. He said,—the granting of a certificate to Sir Evan Mackenzie was opposed on the ground that he was guilty of a fraudulent preference to a person of the name of E. Petrovich. This person appears as a creditor in the first balance-sheet, but she has been totally omitted in the amended one, she having given up all claim to be a creditor. I am, therefore, of opinion that there is not sufficient proof to support this objection. Against Robert Cameron, it was contended that he was guilty of frauds against Layton and Co., by showing them false samples of indigo, and also by getting them to lend him £700 on a post-dated cheque, he falsely alleging that the house of Mackenzie and Co. had a contract for a large quantity of saltpetre. The statements made by Mr. Griffiths and Mr. Cameron differ very much; but, on a careful examination of the evidence, I do not think there is sufficient to establish the charge of fraud. The business appears to have been conducted very loosely on both sides, so far as regards the indigo. Mr. Cameron appears to have been over sanguine, but, from the evidence, it seems to me that he had reason to expect a large quantity of saltpetre; and, at the time he received the £700, he appears to have thought that the house would, from the estate of Mackenzie, pay all their creditors. It was also objected to all the bankrupts that they incurred debts after they must have known that the house was insolvent. I do not, from the evidence, collect at what time the house became insolvent; but it would appear that the bankrupts were to the last, sanguine as to being able to discharge all liabilities. It was also objected that the expenditure of the bankrupts was excessive. In my opinion, Cameron and Boyle did spend more than they were justified

in doing, but this is the apology—that the head of the house was a man of considerable property, and that it was intended to carry on a large business, and, consequently, that the managing partners ought to make an adequate appearance to that business. I highly disapprove traders incurring new debts, when they know they cannot pay 20s. in the pound; and I also disapprove persons, in their yearly expenditure, exceeding the sum that they have reasonable grounds to expect they shall gain in the year. However, the Court of Appeal having, in several instances, overruled my decisions on these points, I consider that I should be acting with great injustice to the creditors, if I attached conditions which I doubt would be approved by the superior court, for that, in all cases where the bankrupt or his friends have the means of appeal, would saddle the creditors with very heavy costs. In case the creditors consider my decision too lenient, they can appeal. On the best consideration I can give the question, I think the justice of the case will be satisfied by giving the bankrupts certificates of the second class.

Mr. Lawrance was for the bankrupts; Mr. Hollams for the assignees.

Bank Meetings.

AGRA AND UNITED SERVICE BANK.

THE half-yearly meeting of this bank was held at the Bank House, Calcutta, on the 15th August, 1854, Mr. Hugh Fraser in the chair, when the following report of the directors was read by the secretary:—

The directors have the pleasure to submit to the proprietors the audited accounts of the past half-year, which exhibit a net profit of Co.'s rs. 4,41,252-8-1, equal to Co.'s rs. 13-13-10 per cent. per annum on the bank's capital. After appropriating Co.'s rs. 99,257-11-10 in completion of the reserve fund to ten lacs, pursuant to resolution of the 13th July, 1852, a balance remains which will admit of a dividend at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum, leaving a surplus of Co.'s rs. 23,769-12-3 to be credited to current profit and loss. The directors recommend that the profits be so applied. The directors are happy to report that such of the new stock as was available to the public, consequent on the increase of the bank's capital, realised Co.'s rs. 700 per share, and the premium on 30 shares, sold in terms of clause 5 of the partnership deed, has been credited to the reserve fund in Co.'s rs. 6,000. An agency has been opened at Canton, under the management of M. Cardno, and promises materially to aid the exchange operations of the bank.

The report was adopted, and the dividend declared.

BANK OF BOMBAY.

AT the annual general meeting of the proprietors of the bank held under section 36, act III, of 1840, on Monday, 7th August, there were present Mr. E. E. Elliott, president, in the chair; Col. Swanson, Cursetjee Jamsetjee, and Messrs. J. Hunter, and G. W. Campbell.

The secretary read the notice calling the meeting, and also the section 36 of the bank charter under which the meeting was held.

The following balance sheet of the affairs of the bank, made up to the 30th June last, was then submitted, and afterwards laid on the table, for the inspection of the proprietors:—

Statement of the Affairs of the Bank of Bombay, on 30th June, 1854.

LIABILITIES.

Dr.	Indian Currency.	English Currency.
To proprietors' capital ..	Rs. 52,25,000 0 0	£522,500 0 0
Bank notes and post bills in circulation	46,10,526 4 3	461,052 12 5
Deposits and all other liabilities ..	32,65,807 12 1	326,580 15 5
Reserved surplus fund, including net profit for the half-year	2,21,093 5 2	22,109 6 6
	<u>Rs. 1,33,22,427 5 6</u>	<u>£1,332,242 14 4</u>

ASSETS.

Cr.	Indian Currency.	English Currency.
By Government securities ..	Rs. 35,14,774 8 0	£351,477 9 0
Loans and cash credit accounts ..	35,52,046 1 4	355,204 12 1
On deposit of securities ..		
Bills discounted	16,98,522 14 8	169,852 5 8
Other securities	5,44,872 5 7	54,487 4 8
Cash on hand	40,12,211 7 11	401,221 2 11
	<u>Rs. 1,33,22,427 5 6</u>	<u>£1,332,242 14 4</u>

Profit and Loss Account.

Dr.	Indian Currency.	English Currency.
To six months' dividend on the capital stock, at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum, payable on 12th July, 1854	Rs. 1,56,750 0 0	£15,675 0 0
Balance of reserved surplus fund ..	64,343 5 2	6,434 6 4
	<u>Rs. 2,21,093 5 2</u>	<u>£22,109 6 4</u>

Cr.	Indian Currency.	English Currency.
By balance of reserved surplus fund on the 31st December, 1853 ..	Rs. 37,122 3 4	£3,712 4 2
Net profit for the half-year ending 30th June, 1854, after paying all the current expenses of the bank ..	1,83,971 1 10	18,397 2 2
	<u>Rs. 2,21,093 5 2</u>	<u>£22,109 6 4</u>

E. E.

JAMES BLAIR, Head Accountant.

Bombay, 4th July, 1854.

Proposed by Col. Swanson, seconded by Mr. Campbell, and resolved:—
 "That the accounts now submitted, be passed as correct and satisfactory."
 The thanks of the meeting were then voted to the chairman, and the meeting dissolved.

Communications.

To the Editor of the Bankers' Magazine.

NEW STAMP ACT—AS TO CHEQUES.

SIR,—In your last month's magazine, "A Subscriber" at Bristol, gives, among others, this extract from a communication he has received from the Office of Inland Revenue:—

"An unstamped cheque received within fifteen miles, of the bank on which it is drawn, may lawfully be carried by the party so receiving the same, to any place beyond that distance, and will not require a stamp to enable his banker there to collect the amount from the banker on whom it is drawn."

I cannot reconcile this statement with the Stamp Act itself, which says:—"And if any person shall remit or send any draft or order not duly stamped as aforesaid, to any place beyond the distance aforesaid, or shall receive the same in payment or as a security, or in any manner negotiate or circulate the same at any such last-mentioned place, he shall forfeit the sum of fifty pounds."—Section 7.

Neither can I, if the Inland Revenue officials are right, understand wherefore section 8 was introduced into the act at all. This it is:—"Provided always, that it shall be lawful for any person who shall receive any such draft or order as aforesaid, at any place within the said distance of fifteen miles from the bank or place at which the same is made payable, which draft or order shall have been lawfully issued unstamped, to affix thereto a proper adhesive stamp, and to cancel such stamp by writing thereon his name, or the initials of his name, and thereupon such draft or order may lawfully be received and negotiated at any place beyond the distance aforesaid, anything herein contained notwithstanding."

My practice is, when a cheque upon a banker resident beyond fifteen miles from my office, is presented to me unstamped, to inquire of the party presenting it whether he received it by letter, or whether he received it, personally from the drawer, at a place not distant beyond fifteen miles of the bank in which the cheque has been drawn. If the former, I desire him to return it to the drawer to be stamped and cancelled by him; if the latter, I request him to affix a stamp and cancel it himself. Where an unstamped cheque is presented by one of a firm (being payees), the same having been received by him by letter, from his partner, who has obtained it within the legal distance, from the drawer, I do not require the return of the cheque to the drawer, but consider myself justified in getting the partner presenting the cheque to stamp and cancel it.

Your obedient servant,

Northumberland, 18th October, 1854.

OLD STAGER.

MODE OF MEASURING THE FIFTEEN MILES, CHEQUES MAY BE CIRCULATED WITHIN.

SIR,—Please oblige me by answering the following query in the next number of your valuable periodical.

"Whether the distance, as regards cheques should be reckoned in a direct line from the bankers on whom drawn, or the road by which the mail travels."

I am, sir, your very obedient servant,

Wareham, 12th October, 1854.

F. G.

[The Act expressly says in a direct line.]

**CHEQUE DRAWN ON BRANCH OFFICE MORE THAN FIFTEEN
MILES FROM CHIEF OFFICE.**

SIR,—Can you favour me with an answer to this question?

When a person has a banking account, may he not draw upon it at any other branch bank of the same firm, even when situated more than fifteen miles from the place where he actually keeps his account, without a draft stamp, provided he uses the cheques of the branch where he may be at the time?—Your attention to this will oblige,

Your obedient servant,

H.

[If the cheque be issued within fifteen miles of the branch on which it is drawn, no stamp is required. The head office does not affect the question, if by the practice of the bank the branches can cash cheques drawn on them by parties keeping an account at the head office.]

**CHEQUE RECEIVED WITHIN FIFTEEN MILES, AND
CARRIED BEYOND THAT DISTANCE.**

SIR,—Will you oblige an old subscriber with your opinion upon the following question?

I take an unstamped cheque at a distance of ten miles from the bank it is drawn upon, put it into my pocket, and continue my journey eight miles further, and in the evening enclose it to the bank it is drawn upon (now eighteen miles distant) with a request that they will pass the amount to my credit.

Does the sending the cheque by post (which I take to be not "circulating it," but withdrawing it from circulation), render it liable to the penny stamp?

An answer in your next number, if convenient, will oblige

COMMERCIAL.

[See reply to the next letter.]

SIR,—I shall feel obliged if you will allow an answer to the following to appear in your next number.

Yours very truly,

A BANK CLERK.

Burnley, 26th Sept., 1854.

C, a merchant, receives a cheque in Preston, payable there. C TAKES IT to his residence, twenty miles distant, and delivers it to his own banker, who sends it home to the banker in Preston as AGENT FOR C. Query: Has the cheque been sent or remitted fifteen miles or upwards, or negotiated, so that a penalty would attach for want of a stamp?

[We may refer this and the preceding correspondent to the letter of a "Subscriber" in our last number. They will see there the course that has been adopted in practice, and that the Secretary to the Inland Revenue considers it legal. But still it must be admitted that there are difficulties. An act which depends for its legality upon an extraneous assertion is not satisfactory.]

BANKER—SPECIAL JUROR.

SIR,—Will you be good enough to state in your next number, whether a manager of a bank, in which he is also a shareholder, be, or be not, legally entitled to the addition of "Banker," and, consequently, to be included in the list of special jurors?

Your very obedient servant,
W. J.

October 11th, 1854.

[We think the manager of a bank, even if he be not a shareholder, is entitled to the denomination of a banker, and to be inserted in the list of special jurors. A mere shareholder in a bank is entitled to the name of a banker, and may be gazetted a bankrupt, as such, but as he may otherwise be in a very humble sphere of life, we do not think the mere fact of being a shareholder entitles a party to be inserted in the list of special jurors.]

MICHAELMAS RENTS ON CORN AVERAGES.

SIR,—The adoption of corn-rents based on the average prices of wheat, or of wheat, barley and oats, for the farmers' year ending on Michaelmas day, having been strongly advocated by many gentlemen, as forming a more equitable bargain between the landlord and tenant, I was induced to make a communication to you in October, 1853, and, as a continuation, embracing the year ending Michaelmas day, 1854, I have prepared the annexed statement. I also subjoin the weekly averages upon which the quarterly and annual average is founded, put into a shape more convenient for reference than the return published in the London *Gazette*.

It would tend very much to promote the extension of the system if a general plan of proceeding could be introduced, and, with a view to this object, it would be gratifying to me to be furnished with information as to the mode in which the adoption of corn-rents has been introduced and carried out in different parts of England, particularly with reference to the basis prices of grain.

By way of example, we will suppose that a farm would be worth £300 a-year rent, if the average prices were as follows, viz. :—Wheat, 7s. 0½d. per imperial bushel, or 56s. 2d. per imperial quarter; barley, 3s. 11½d. per imperial bushel, or 31s. 8d. per imperial quarter; oats, 2s. 9d. per imperial bushel, or 23s. per imperial quarter. Now, at these prices, if we turn one-third of the rent into each of the above kinds of grain, the corn-rent will be—284,866 bushels of wheat, 505,263 bushels of barley, and 727,272 bushels of oats. And these quantities, valued into money at the annual average prices, ascertained up to each Michaelmas day, will give the rent from year to year during the continuance of the agreement.

I am, sir, your most obedient servant,

CHARLES M. WILLICH,
Actuary University Life Office.

25, Suffolk Street, Pall Mall, Oct. 6.

Average Price per Imperial Quarter in England and Wales.

For quarter ending		Wheat.		Barley.		Oats.
		s. d.		s. d.		s. d.
Christmas, 1853 ..	..	69 10	..	40 0	..	24 9
Lady-day, 1854 ..	..	79 6	..	40 1	..	26 11
Midsummer, 1854 ..	..	78 4	..	37 0	..	29 1
Michaelmas, 1854 ..	..	63 10	..	33 5	..	28 2
For the year ending						
Michaelmas, 1854 ..	..	73 1	..	37 9	..	27 4

WEEKLY AVERAGE PRICE PER IMPERIAL QUARTER.

(From the *London Gazette*.)

		Wheat.		Barley.		Oats.	
		s.	d.	s.	d.	s.	d.
14th October, 1853	..	64	0.803	38	7.894	22	9.914
21st	..	68	4.779	40	1.871	23	10.748
28th	..	68	11.534	40	7.003	24	2.465
4th November	..	69	1.719	40	9.486	24	8.810
11th	..	71	9.247	41	3.011	25	5.833
18th	..	73	7.718	42	2.986	25	5.340
25th	..	72	7.154	42	3.194	26	0.870
2nd December	..	72	0.479	41	9.762	26	0.546
9th	..	72	7.950	40	9.977	26	3.242
16th	..	71	11.723	39	9.201	25	4.600
23rd	..	70	9.827	38	9.058	24	11.752
30th	..	70	0.633	37	11.086	25	0.169
6th January, 1854	..	73	0.202	39	4.387	25	6.543
13th	..	76	2.273	41	3.803	25	5.183
20th	..	78	10.676	42	0.627	26	4.442
27th	..	82	4.481	42	10.724	27	2.759
3rd February	..	83	3.040	43	0.819	27	1.650
10th	..	82	8.527	41	8.961	27	0.479
17th	..	82	4.010	41	3.205	27	4.916
24th	..	80	1.990	39	11.765	27	5.631
3rd March	..	78	5.659	38	4.474	27	1.991
10th	..	78	3.674	37	10.102	27	0.199
17th	..	79	6.173	38	7.136	27	2.089
24th	..	79	2.989	38	9.905	27	7.404
31st	..	78	4.079	38	6.802	27	5.600
7th April	..	75	0.181	37	8.588	26	10.847
14th	..	73	5.758	36	2.864	26	11.914
21st	..	78	3.350	36	10.791	27	6.519
28th	..	79	11.991	37	5.008	27	6.148
5th May	..	79	5.596	37	8.533	28	9.627
12th	..	79	9.947	37	0.365	28	8.671
19th	..	78	9.829	37	1.042	29	5.936
26th	..	78	2.646	37	2.454	29	4.887
2nd June	..	78	9.683	37	1.229	29	11.404
9th	..	79	11.886	36	9.510	29	10.301
16th	..	78	9.390	37	1.692	30	8.757
23rd	..	78	3.049	37	3.318	29	5.140
30th	..	77	11.508	37	1.563	30	6.391
7th July	..	77	8.708	37	2.865	30	7.430
14th	..	76	6.946	36	6.674	20	2.827
21st	..	74	6.995	36	10.649	29	8.706
28th	..	71	10.339	37	1.564	30	7.462
4th August	..	69	8.211	36	3.790	29	10.600
11th	..	64	8.418	35	9.941	29	11.009
18th	..	62	3.219	34	8.239	28	11.140
25th	..	64	0.742	34	6.821	27	9.098
1st September	..	63	7.048	32	5.459	28	7.542
8th	..	62	3.860	32	5.789	27	8.970
15th	..	59	4.676	30	9.243	27	6.822
22nd	..	52	5.288	29	2.912	25	11.975
29th	..	53	2.611	29	2.148	24	7.502
6th October..	..	55	9.154	29	2.859	25	3.664

RISE AND PROGRESS OF THE LONDON JOINT-STOCK BANKS.

In our last number was inserted at length a paper entitled "THE CHARTERED AND UNCHARTERED JOINT-STOCK BANKS CARRYING ON BUSINESS IN THE METROPOLIS," read before the statistical section of the "British Association for the Advancement of Science."

Owing to the absence of space, we are unable to publish a valuable and complete set of tables, comprising part of the subject of the paper, showing the operations of the Bank Charter Act from September, 1844. (the date of the act coming into force), to June, 1854, as also the tables showing the average and specific rates of interest charged by the Bank of England upon Exchequer-bills, &c., and discounts of commercial paper; but their substance, in another form, has already appeared in the pages of this periodical.

In presenting, therefore, the several tables, detailing the "Annual Progress" and "Analysis of the Joint-Stock Banks in London," it is scarcely necessary to refer our readers to the paper itself, in order to illustrate the object of the writer. Attention, however, has been directed to the following points which are important by way of explanation and correction.

I. Mr. Knight, the author, in quoting the maximum rate of interest allowed to depositors by the Union Bank of London, mentioned 4 per cent., whereas 5 is the highest rate given, provided the rate for first class commercial paper charged by the Bank of England be 6 per cent.

II. In treating upon the "Reserved Fund" of the Union Bank, the writer appears to have been under the impression that the whole of the premiums resulting to the bank from the issue of the unallotted shares, subsequently to the meeting of the proprietors in June, last—viz., £84,580, was applicable to that fund, thereby increasing it to £134,580. This is not quite the fact, inasmuch as the "Reserved Fund" is only increased from £50,000 to £120,000—the remaining £14,580 having been appropriated, first, in discharging the balance of the preliminary expenses—viz., £8,500; and £6,080 to defray the cost of enlargement and improvement of the bank premises in Princes-street. This will, of course, affect the ratios of the "Reserved Fund," as specified in Table XVII., but not to any material extent.

III. The table introduced at page 556, showing "the Summary of the Total Increase at the end of the first 15 years," should have been stated as such increase "over the first year's operations of the Banks."

IV. In quoting the market prices of the shares (page 557), an error occurs in that of the London Joint-Stock Bank, the selling price, at the period referred to—viz., the close of the last half-year, being £27, and not £25. The price quoted—viz. £28, for the Union Bank, was doubtless increased to that amount from the anticipated issue of the reserved or unallotted shares, as referred to in the report of the directors, in the October number. The following, therefore, will serve as a more correct criterion of the current prices of the shares in July last.

London and Westminster ..	£20 paid..	price £40..	£20 premium.
London Joint-Stock	10	" "	27 17
Union Bank	10	" "	*25 15
London and County	20	" "	32 12
Commercial	35	" "	35 15
Royal British	50	" "	50 par.

* Irrespective of anticipated issue of reserved shares.

TABLE VIII.—LONDON AND WESTMINSTER BANK.

Capital £5,000,000.

ANNUAL PROGRESS.

Established 1834.

Year.	Number of Proprietors.	Number of Shares Issued.	Amount of each Share.	Paid on each Share.	Number of Branches.	Amount of Capital.		Amount of Deposits.	Net Profits.	Reserved Fund.	Dividends and Bonuses.		Price per Share.
						Subscribed.	Paid up.				£	p cent.	
30th June.			£	£		£	£	£	£	£	£	p cent.	£
1834	480	10,000	100	15	1	1,000,000	182,255	180,380	3,540	1,205	2,334	2	15
1835	483	17,818	100	15	4	1,781,800	267,270	266,884	11,520	1,907	10,818	4	15½
1836	781	29,864	100	20	5	2,986,400	597,255	643,332	32,483	4,427	29,864	5	20½
1837	785	29,864	100	20	5	2,986,400	597,280	793,148	32,404	7,067	29,864	5	21
1838	799	29,864	100	20	5	2,986,400	597,280	1,387,855	43,635	20,839	29,864	5	23½
1839	814	29,864	100	20	5	2,986,400	597,280	1,266,845	48,098	33,100	35,836	6	23
1840	836	29,864	100	20	5	2,986,400	597,280	1,361,545	48,951	46,215	35,836	6	24
1841	957	39,315	100	20	5	3,931,500	786,300	1,499,328	51,300	56,007	41,507	6	21½
1842	956	40,000	100	20	5	4,000,000	800,000	2,087,787	55,118	63,126	48,000	6	22
1843	1,003	40,000	100	20	5	4,000,000	800,000	2,219,624	51,696	66,822	48,000	6	22½
1844	1,003	40,000	100	20	5	4,000,000	800,000	2,676,741	51,081	69,904	48,000	6	26½

LONDON AND WESTMINSTER BANK—continued.

Year.	Number of Pro- prietors.	Number of Shares Issued.	Amount of each Share.	Paid on each Share.	Number of Branches	Amount of Capital.		Amount of Deposits.	Net Profit.	Reserved Fund.	Dividends and Bonuses.		Price per Share.
			£	£		£	Paid up.	£	£	£	£	p cent.	£
1845	1,001	40,000	100	20	5	4,000,000	800,000	3,500,014	66,344	88,248	48,000	6	25½
1846	1,007	40,000	100	20	5	4,000,000	800,000	3,280,864	72,175	98,424	48,000	8	28
1847	1,122	50,000	100	20	5	5,000,000	988,882	2,733,753	58,223	100,647	16,000	6	23½
1848	1,144	50,000	100	20	5	5,000,000	998,768	3,089,659	62,076	102,723	60,000	6	20½
1849	1,118	50,000	100	20	5	5,000,000	1,000,000	3,680,623	65,120	107,844	60,000	6	25
1850	1,135	50,000	100	20	5	5,000,000	1,000,000	3,969,648	67,262	100,107	60,000	7½	28
1851	1,150	50,000	100	20	5	5,000,000	1,000,000	4,677,298	84,044	104,152	15,000	8	29½
1852	1,192	50,000	100	20	5	5,000,000	1,000,000	5,581,706	85,012	109,164	20,000	8	35
1853	1,195	50,000	100	20	5	5,000,000	1,000,000	6,259,540	116,142	125,307	20,000	10	40
1854, to } 30th June, }	1,220	50,000	100	20	5	5,000,000	1,000,000	6,892,470	73,900	125,307	40,000	6	40
											60,000	3 Bonus.	

TABLE IX.—LONDON JOINT-STOCK BANK.

Capital £3,000,000.

ANNUAL PROGRESS.

Established 1836.

Year ending 31st December.	Number of Pro- prietors.	Number of Shares Issued.	Amount of each Share, and Amount paid.		Number of Branches	Amount of Capital.		Amount of Deposits and (Current Accounts.	Net Profits.	Reserved Fund.	Dividends and Bonus.	
			£	£		Subscribed.	Paid up.				£	p cent.
1837	611	31,080	50	7	(none)	3,000,000	217,560	594,101	11,634	2,932	8,702	4
1838	627	31,080	50	10	(none)	3,000,000	310,800	1,145,121	21,243	10,966	13,209	5
1839	627	31,080	50	10	(none)	3,000,000	310,800	1,035,088	27,068	20,749	17,285	5
1840	627	44,512	50	10	1	3,000,000	445,120	1,170,893	47,922*	49,523	19,148	5
1841	627	58,970	50	10	1	3,000,000	589,700	1,403,188	61,027†	81,731	28,819	5 & 6
1842	712	60,000	50	10	1	3,000,000	600,000	1,771,739	48,671‡	94,403	36,000	6
1843	712	60,000	50	10	1	3,000,000	600,000	2,046,285	31,420	89,824	36,000	6
1844	712	60,000	50	10	1	3,000,000	600,000	2,245,330	37,041	90,856	36,000	6
1845	742	60,000	50	10	1	3,000,000	600,000	2,460,476	41,440	96,297	36,000	6
1846	749	60,000	50	10	1	3,000,000	600,000	2,446,017	65,820	120,117	42,000	7
1847	751	60,000	50	10	1	3,000,000	600,000	1,971,912	62,131	123,759	58,500	9‡
1848	747	60,000	50	10	1	3,000,000	600,000	2,328,056	62,005	128,765	57,000	9‡
1849	768	60,000	50	10	1	3,000,000	600,000	2,792,507	62,956	132,723	58,500	9‡
1850	785	60,000	50	10	1	3,000,000	600,000	2,949,869	50,883	137,109	46,500	7‡
1851	793	60,000	50	10	1	3,000,000	600,000	3,157,575	62,725	141,335	58,500	9‡
1852	825	60,000	50	10	1	3,000,000	600,000	3,591,506	62,278	146,613	57,000	9‡
1853	833	60,000	50	10	1	3,000,000	600,000	5,010,623	86,666	151,279	82,000	13‡
June 30, 1854	850	60,000	50	10	1	3,000,000	600,000	5,837,901	54,695§	153,549	30,000||	—

* £12,778 from Premiums on Shares sold. † £14,466 from Premiums on Shares sold. ‡ £3,025 from Premiums on Shares sold.

§ For Six Months only, being at the rate of £118,380 for the year.

|| For Six Months only, being at the rate of £60,000 for the year, exclusive of Bonus to be divided in the December Return.

TABLE X.—UNION BANK OF LONDON.

Established 1839.

ANNUAL PROGRESS.

Capital £3,000,000.

Year.	Number of Proprietors.	Number of Shares held.	Amount of each Share.	Paid on each Share.	Number of Branches.	Amount of Capital.		Amount of Deposits.	Interest allowed on Current and Deposit Accounts.	Net Profits.	Reserved Fund.	Dividends and Bonuses.		Price per Share.
						Subscribed.	Paid up.					£	p ct.	
30th June			£	£		£	£	£	£	£	£	£	p ct.	£
1840	738	42,005	50	5	1	2,100,250	210,025	377,755	7,373	16,518	..	10,501	5	5 ^h
1841	726	42,270	50	10	2	2,113,500	422,700	503,550	7,555	24,573	2,032	15,851	5	10
1842	703	42,290	50	10	2	2,114,500	422,900	745,988	11,964	29,899	4,065	21,145	5	10
1843	678	42,290	50	10	2	2,114,500	422,900	956,467	13,358	29,962	6,297	21,145	5	10
1844	644	42,290	50	10	2	2,114,500	422,900	1,591,200	18,644	32,113	8,531	21,145	5	12 ^h
1845	621	42,290	50	10	2	2,114,500	422,900	2,012,548	26,004	36,419	12,323	21,145	5	12 ^h
1846	626	42,290	50	10	2	2,114,500	422,900	2,170,310	28,108	29,181	20,303	21,145	5	11 ^h
1847	592	42,290	50	10	2	2,114,500	422,900	2,510,064	25,145	47,598	22,954	25,374	6	12
1848	589	42,290	50	10	2	2,114,500	422,900	2,644,728	30,242	39,283	40,900	25,374	6	10
1849	592	42,290	50	10	2	2,114,500	422,900	2,835,617	33,745	28,617	50,000	25,374	6	10 ^h
1850	625	42,290	50	10	2	2,114,500	422,900	2,963,583	27,351	33,858	50,000	25,374	6	12 ^h
1851	647	42,290	50	10	2	2,114,500	422,900	3,091,316	27,726	39,806	50,000	29,603	7	13 ^h
1852	648	42,290	50	10	2	2,114,500	422,900	4,268,438	30,701	38,171	50,000	29,603	7	16 ^h
1853	641	42,290	50	10	2	2,114,500	422,900	4,878,731	42,515	42,811	50,000	31,717	8	20
1854	643	42,290	50	10	2	2,114,500	422,900	7,031,477	107,739	84,032	50,000	63,435	15	28*

* This advanced price (£18 Premium) was, doubtless attributable to the anticipated issue of "Reserved Shares," referred to in Directors' Report of July, 1954.

TABLE XI.—COMMERCIAL BANK OF LONDON.
ANNUAL PROGRESS.

Capital £2,000,000.

Established 1840.

Year.	Number of Proprietors.	Number of Shares Issued.	Amount of each Share.	Amount paid per Share.	Number of Branches	Amount of Capital		Amount of Deposits.	Net Profit.	Reserved Fund.	Dividends and Bonus.	
						Subscribed.	Paid up.				£	p cent.
			£	£		£	£	£	£	£	£	
30th June,												
1841	146	400	1,000	200	..	400,000	80,000	168,977	3,619	935	2,684	4
1842	146	400	1,000	200	1	400,000	80,000	246,824	4,584	1,519	4,000	5
1843	146	400	1,000	200	1	400,000	80,000	216,948	3,249	1,568	3,200	4
1844	149	400	1,000	200	1	400,000	80,000	239,622	4,945	2,514	4,000	5
			Reduced to									
1845	218	5,000	100	20	1	500,000	100,000	500,728	6,981	4,508	4,987	6
1846	181	6,143	100	20	1	614,300	122,860	440,271	12,600	10,066	7,042	6
1847	178	6,414	100	20	1	614,400	128,280	409,925	12,382	14,825	7,624	6
1848	179	6,414	100	20	1	641,400	128,280	405,217	10,257	17,386	7,696	6
1849	180	6,414	100	20	1	641,400	128,280	541,804	12,077	17,418	7,696	6
1850	194	6,739	100	20	1	673,900	134,780	612,596	14,982	20,646	7,922	6
1851	218	7,618	100	20	1	761,800	152,360	764,541	15,551	23,871	8,881	6
1852	251	10,000	100	20	1	1,000,000	200,000	964,177	21,307	28,968	15,054	8
1853	267	10,000	100	20	1	1,000,000	200,000	1,246,824	30,654	58,052	20,000	10
1854	314	15,000	100	20	1	1,500,000	300,000	1,265,908	36,950	64,012	30,000	10

TABLE XII.—LONDON AND COUNTY BANK.

Established 1839.

ANNUAL PROGRESS.

Capital £2,000,000.

Year.	Number of Proprietors.	Number of Shares issued.	Amount of each Share.	Paid on each Share.	Number of Branches	Amount of Capital.		Amount of Deposits.	Interest allowed on Deposits and Current Accounts.	Net Profit.	Reserved Fund.	Dividends and Bonuses.	
						Subscribed,	Paid up.					£	% cent
31 Dec.			£	£		£	£	£	£	£	£	£	
1839	476	6,460	50	10	21	323,000	64,635	351,275	(mil)	3,416	2,141	2,720	5
1840	489	7,059	50	10	23	352,950	70,595	437,995	3,738	3,711	2,923	3,386	5
1841	504	8,093	50	10	27	404,650	80,935	581,279	8,178	5,146	4,022	3,846	5
1842	450	8,024	50	15	30	401,200	120,600	858,802	10,816	8,100	5,484	5,582	5
1843	411	8,081	50	15	36	404,050	121,685	996,082	13,896	6,889	8,245	6,084	5
1844	386	8,011	50	20	35	400,550	161,025	1,231,412	13,569	9,130	10,172	6,576	5
1845	404	10,000	50	20	43	500,000	200,510	1,459,738	16,186	11,881	14,833	8,431	5
1846	387	10,000	50	20	44	500,000	200,600	1,588,535	19,072	13,916	20,357	12,032	6
1847	382	10,000	50	20	45	500,000	200,600	1,225,120	19,562	12,900	17,386	12,036	6
1848	360	10,000	50	20	46	500,000	200,000	1,354,730	16,814	13,155	26,390	12,002	6
1849	405	10,000	50	20	48	500,000	200,000	1,675,494	17,507	14,735	28,383	12,000	6
1850	419	10,885	50	20	52	542,250	231,035	2,030,238	21,540	16,151	32,059	13,862	6
1851	451	12,308	50	20	55	615,400	276,925	2,465,678	24,537	20,530	36,257	18,300	7
1852	522	16,352	50	20	59	817,600	360,670	3,281,603	27,000	30,225	39,064	25,551	8
1853	577	17,794	50	20	59	389,700	294,135	3,417,130	31,000	52,849	45,665	38,370	10

TABLE XIII.—ROYAL BRITISH BANK.

Capital £2,000,000.

ANNUAL PROGRESS.

Established 1849.

Year.	No. of Pro- prietors.	No. of Shares held.	Amount of each Share.	No. of Branches	Amount of Capital.			Amount of Deposits and current Accounts	Interest paid to Customers.	Net Profits.	Reserved Fund.	Dividends and Bonuses.	
					Subscribed.	Paid up.	Paid upon Scrip- ture New Shares.					£	Per cent.
Nov., 1849, to 31st Dec., 1850.....	131	1,000	100	3	£ 100,000	£ 50,000	£	(a) 353,541	£ 4,456	£ 7,097	£ 2,000	£ 2,000	4
1851.....	127	1,000	100	3	100,000	50,000		(b) 493,764	9,601	7,243	4,583	2,500	5
1852.....	127	1,000	100	3	100,000	50,000		(c) 687,417	13,394	8,746	7,500	2,750	5½
1853.....	128	1,000	100	3	100,000	50,000		(d) 829,298	19,485	9,948	10,766	3,000	6
1854, 30th June.....	122	1,000	100	3	100,000	50,000	(e) 43,080	805,285	12,194	3,355	12,416	1,500	6

(a) Including £1,465, deposit for new shares.

(b) " 2,668, " "

(c) " 5,204, " "

(d) " 32,932, " "

(e) Representing £100,000 in 1,000 shares, held by 106 scripholders.

TABLE XIV.—JOINT-STOCK BANKS OF LONDON.—QUINQUENNIAL RESULTS AND COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS.

Name of Bank.	No. of Proprietors	Amount of Capital paid up.	Capital apportionable to Proprietor	Amount of Deposits and Current Accounts.	Ratio of Deposits and Current Accounts to paid-up Capital.	Net Profits.	Ratio of Profits to paid-up Capital.	Reserved Fund.	Ratio of Reserve to paid-up Capital.	Ratio of Reserve to Deposits.	Dividends.	Ratio of Dividends to paid-up Capital.
<i>At the end of First 5 years—</i>												
London & Westminster	799	£ 597,280	£ 747,53	£ 1,387,855	p cent. 232.363	£ 43,635	p cent. 7.306	£ 20,839	p cent. 3.490	p cent. 1.502	£ 29,864	p cent. 5.000
London Joint-Stock ..	627	589,700	940.51	1,403,188	237.949	61,027*	10.349	81,731	13.860	5.824	28,819	4.887
Union	644	422,900	656.68	1,591,200	376.259	32,113	7.593	8,531	2.017	536	21,145	5.000
London and County ..	411	121,685	296.07	996,082	818.574	6,889	5.661	8,245	6.776	828	6,084	5.000
Commercial	218	100,000	458.71	500,728	500.728	6,981	6.981	4,508	4.508	900	4,987	4.987
<i>At the end of Second 5 years—</i>												
London & Westminster	1,003	800,000	797.61	2,219,624	277.453	51,696	6.462	66,822	8.353	3.010	48,000	6.000
London Joint-Stock ..	749	600,000	801.07	2,446,017	407.669	65,820	10.970	120,117	20.019	4.911	42,000	7.000
Union	592	422,900	714.36	2,835,617	670.517	28,617	6.767	50,000	11.823	1.763	25,374	6.000
London and County ..	362	200,000	555.00	1,354,730	677.036	13,155	6.577	26,390	13.208	1.948	12,002	6.000
Commercial	194	134,780	694.74	612,596	454.515	14,982	11.116	20,646	15.318	3.370	7,922	5.878
<i>At the end of Third 5 years—</i>												
London & Westminster	1,144	998,768	873.05	3,089,659	309.347	62,076	6.215	102,723	10.285	3.324	60,000	6.007
London Joint-Stock ..	793	600,000	756.62	3,157,575	526.262	62,725	10.454	141,335	23.556	4.476	58,500	9.750
Union	643	422,900	657.70	7,031,477	1,662.681	84,632	20.123	50,000	11.823	711	63,435	15.000
London and County ..	577	394,135	683.07	3,417,130	866.994	52,849	13.408	45,665	11.586	1.336	38,370	9.735
<i>At the end of Fourth 5 years—</i>												
London & Westminster	1,195	1,000,000	836.82	6,259,540	625.954	116,142	11.614	125,307	12.531	2.002	100,000	10.000

* At this period £14,466 were added from premiums on shares sold. Vide Table IX.

TABLE XV.—JOINT-STOCK BANKS OF LONDON.

Increase at each Quinquennial Period, as under.

At the end of first five years.

Name of Bank.	Paid up Capital.	Amount of Deposits.	Net Profits.	Reserved Fund.	Dividends and Bonuses.	Perct.
London & Westminster	415,025	1,207,475	40,095	19,634	27,530	3
London Joint-Stock ..	372,140	809,087	*49,393	78,799	20,117	1½
Union	212,875	1,213,445	15,595	8,531	10,644	—
London & County	57,050	644,807	3,473	6,104	3,364	—
Commercial.....	20,000	331,751	3,362	3,573	2,303	2

At the end of second five years.

London & Westminster	202,720	831,769	8,061	45,983	18,136	1
London Joint-Stock ..	10,300	1,042,829	† 4,793	38,386	13,181	1½
Union	—	1,244,417	3,496	41,469	4,229	1
London & County	78,315	358,648	6,266	18,145	5,918	1
Commercial.....	34,780	111,868	8,001	16,138	2,935	—

At the end of third five years.

London & Westminster	198,768	870,035	10,380	35,901	12,000	—
London Joint-Stock ..	—	711,558	3,095	21,218	16,500	2½
Union	—	4,195,860	56,015	—	38,061	9
London & County	194,135	2,062,400	39,694	19,275	26,368	4

At the end of fourth five years

London & Westminster	1,232	3,169,881	54,066	22,584	40,000	4
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* During first 5 years, £27,244 was added from premiums on shares sold.

† At beginning of second five years, £3,025 was added from premiums on shares sold.

TABLE XVI.—JOINT-STOCK BANKS OF LONDON.
RESULTS OF OPERATIONS TO THE MOST RECENT DATE OF PUBLICATION.

Name of Bank.	Number of Years established.	Number of Proprietors.	Number of Shares issued.	Amount of each Share.	Paid on each Share.	Number of Branches.	Amount of Capital.		Amount of Deposits.	Interest allowed upon Deposits and Current Accounts.	Net Profit.	Reserved Fund.	Dividend and Bonuses.	Or per Cent.	Price per Share.
							Subscribed.	Paid up.							
				£	£		£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
London & Westminster, to 30th June, 1854....	20	1,220	50,000	100	20	5	5,000,000	1,000,000	6,892,470	(not given)	73,900*	125,307*	60,000*	10*	40
London Joint-Stock, to 30th June, 1854....	18	850	60,000	50	10	1	3,000,000	600,000	5,837,901	(not given)	54,695*	153,549*	30,000*	14	27
Union Bank, to 30th June, 1854	15	643	42,290	50	10	2	2,114,500	422,900	7,031,477	107,739	84,632	50,000	63,435	15	28
London & County, to 31st Dec., 1853.....	14	577	17,794	50	20	59	889,700	394,135	3,417,130	31,000	52,849	45,665	38,370	10	31
Commercial, to 30th June, 1854	14	314	15,000	100	20	1	1,500,000	300,000	1,265,908	(not given)	36,950	64,012	30,000	10	35
Royal British, to 30th June, 1854	4	122	1,000	100	50	4	100,000	50,000*	805,285	12,194	3,355*	12,416*	1,500	6	—
Total....		3,726	186,084			72	12,604,200	2,767,035	25,250,171		306,381	450,949			

* To 30th June, 1854, being only *vis* Months; the financial Year ending 31st December, 1854.

TABLE XVII.—JOINT-STOCK BANKS OF LONDON.

ANALYSIS OF RESULTS TO THE LATEST DATE OF PUBLICATION (DEDUCED FROM TABLE XVI).

Name of Bank.	Number of Proprietors.	Amount of Capital Paid-up.	Capital appportionable to each Proprietor.	Amount of Deposits and Current Accounts.	Ratio of Deposits and Current Accounts to Paid-up Capital.	Net Profit.
London and Westminster, to 30th June, 1854 . . .	1,220	£ 1,000,000	£ 820	£ 6,892,470	per cent. 689.247	£ 73,900
London Joint-Stock, to 30th June, 1854	850	600,000	706	5,837,901	972.984	54,695
Union	643	422,900	658	7,031,477	1662.681	84,632
London and County, to 31st December, 1853	577	394,135	683	3,417,130	866.995	52,849
Commercial	314	300,000	955	1,265,908	421.969	36,950
Royal British, to 30th June, 1854	122	50,000	410	805,285	1610.570	3,355
Name of Bank.	Ratio of Profits to Paid-up Capital.	Reserved Fund.	Ratio of Reserved Fund to Paid-up Capital.	Ratio of Reserved Fund to Deposits.	Dividends.	Ratio of Dividends to Paid-up Capital.
London and Westminster, to 30th June, 1854 . . .	per cent. 7.390	£ 125,307	per cent. 12.531	per cent. 1.818	£ 60,000	per cent. 6.000
London Joint-Stock, to 30th June, 1854	9.115	153,549	25.591	2.630	30,000	5.000
Union	20.012	50,000	11.823	.711	63,435	15.000
London and County, to 31st December, 1854	13.409	45,665	11.586	1.336	38,370	9.735
Commercial	12.316	64,012	21.337	5.056	30,000	10.000
Royal British, to 30th June, 1854	6.710	12,416	24.832	1.542	1,500	3.000

* These Amounts cover a period of Six Months only.

THE RAILWAY INTEREST OF THE UNITED KINGDOM.

ANOTHER half-year has elapsed, and the period has arrived for preparing a succinct digest of the meetings of the various railway companies, which, with a synopsis of the principal balance-sheets, will be found to follow these introductory remarks. The points for consideration which are presented on a general examination of the reports, may be summed up thus:—

1st. A slight but apparently a permanent increase, except in one or two instances, in the gross amount of revenue.

2nd. A general augmentation of expenditure far in excess of traffic returns, occasioned by the maintained demand for money, and the advance in the value of material and wages.

3rd. A desire amongst belligerent directorates, to revise managements, without any effective result; and symptoms in some quarters of the probability of renewal of differences.

In May last, in referring to the prospects of these undertakings, we stated, "There is an apprehension that the effects of dear money, and the other causes which have latterly influenced railway expenditure, will in all probability exercise greater weight in the current, than in the past six months. Although the weekly returns of receipts are extremely encouraging and have presented a progressive augmentation, the impending depression of trade, with the consequences almost certain to arise during a period of war, may eventually interfere with traffic, and thus diminish income; while, on the other hand, few or any of the circumstances affecting outlay stand a chance of general reduction. It will be necessary to bear this in mind in estimating the prospects of the next half-yearly dividends." The consequences here predicted, have been almost wholly realised; and for the next few months no especial relief can be promised. It is clear, therefore, that great caution should be exercised in making advances on these securities, since intermediate fluctuations may render them liable to a depreciation which may not speedily be recovered. Present quotations, although better now than those which then prevailed, the sudden fall in funded securities having just occurred, and unfavourably influenced other descriptions, if supported to the full extent, cannot be deemed to present a very attractive appearance, and it is not impossible that any fresh revulsion may be accompanied by effects more disastrous than any already witnessed.

Although expectations have been entertained in several quarters, that the general money market would have assumed an easier position before now—an opinion to which we, in conjunction with others who have narrowly watched the course of trade and financial affairs, could not subscribe—it will be seen that the predictions uttered have proved incorrect, the demand for accommodation having, on the average, been well sustained, at rates varying between five and six per cent. With preferential charges swallowing up a considerable amount of revenue, and the heavy payments entailed by increased expenditure for materials and labour, there can be no immediate expectation that the profits for

original shareholders will enable the announcement of higher rates of distribution.

With regard to the sacrifices incurred through the improvident arrangements made by the leading companies, in consequence of competition, it is only necessary to allude to the special instance of the Great Western having, at any risk, secured possession of the Shrewsbury and Birmingham line. The opposition of the London and North Western has been brought to bear upon the traffic in that district, and, by an unprecedented reduction in fares, it has been diverted, so that a loss upon the working of the Shrewsbury Company has had to be charged to the revenue of the Great Western, and thus the balance available for dividend has been proportionably diminished. This spirit of rivalry between the two great companies, is not likely, it is feared, to facilitate the adjustment of other questions which interfere with their prosperity, and the olive branch mutually extended on a former occasion will, in all probability, be withdrawn. Some of the Scotch lines appear to be placed in a similar predicament, and traffic agreements, through unfortunate dissensions, are, it is stated, to be abandoned. The only case in which it seems that general satisfaction has been expressed, is that of the union of the York, Newcastle and Berwick, York and North Midland, and Leeds Northern undertakings with the general title of the North Eastern Company.

An abundant harvest has assisted greatly to diminish the difficulties inseparable from the existence of war, and in this respect its value cannot be too highly appreciated; but notwithstanding the successes of the allies, both in the Baltic and the Black Seas, an impression gains ground that the reduction of Sebastopol will not check the arrogant pretensions of the Czar. If hostilities are to be protracted, our national expenditure cannot be regarded as having seen its *maximum*.



OFFICIAL REPORT ON RAILWAYS FOR 1853.

THE following is an abstract of the principal sections of the report of the railway department of the Board of Trade, during the year 1853. It states that the length of new lines of railway sanctioned by the legislature in the United Kingdom, during that year, was 940 miles, which amount is very considerably greater than that sanctioned during any year since 1847. Of this amount, 589 miles were in England, 80 miles in Scotland, and 271 miles in Ireland. The total length of railway which has been authorised by parliament to the end of 1853 is 12,688 miles. Of this number of miles, 7,686 have been opened for traffic, leaving 5,002 miles to be completed; but the compulsory powers of 2,838 miles have expired without being exercised, or the railways being opened to the end of 1853. The length of railways for the construction of which parliamentary powers exist, is 2,164 miles. The length of railway opened previously to December, 1843, was 2,036 miles. The length opened in the year 1844 was 204 miles; in

1845, 296 miles; in 1846, 606 miles; in 1847, 803 miles; in 1848, 1,182 miles; in 1849, 869 miles; in 1850, 625 miles; in 1851, 269 miles; in 1852, 446 miles; and in 1853, 350 miles, making the total length then opened 7,686 miles; of which 5,848 miles are in England, 995 in Scotland, and 843 miles in Ireland. The length of the narrow gauge railway, including the Irish gauge of $5\frac{1}{2}$ feet, is 6,965 miles; of the broad gauge 626 miles; and of the mixed gauge 95 miles. The number of railway companies having single lines of railway at the end of 1853 was 97, the length of single narrow gauge lines, including the Irish gauge, 1,543 miles, of broad gauge 112 miles, and of mixed gauge 53 miles—total 1,708 miles; of which 1,135 miles of single line are in England, 132 miles in Scotland, and 441 miles in Ireland. Of the single line opened at the end of the year 1852, 32 miles 46 chains in England, and 41 miles 76 chains in Ireland, have been made double during the year 1853. The total length of new line which was opened during the year 1853 amounted to 350 miles. Of the railways opened during 1853, twenty-five portions of railway, representing a total length of 298 miles, consisted of single line; and it would appear that the length of single line open at the end of 1853, viz. 1,708 miles, was between one-fourth and one-fifth of the whole amount of railway open. It is to be observed that the length of single line open at the end of 1852 was 1,485 miles, and at the end of 1851, 1,307 miles. The amount of capital invested in railways at the end of 1852 was £264,165,680, of which 161,400,256 consisted of ordinary capital, £38,700,755 of preference capital, and £64,064,668 of loans. The amount of capital raised for railway purposes in 1849 was £29,574,720; in 1850, £10,522,967; in 1851, £7,970,151, and in 1852, £16,398,993; thus increasing the amount invested in railways at the end of 1849 from £229,747,779 to £264,165,680 at the end of 1852. The amount of money which was raised by railway companies during 1853 has not yet been returned to Parliament; but it may be assumed not to have been less than that raised during 1852, and it is therefore probable that the whole sum raised by railway companies to the end of 1853 is not less than £281,000,000, of which about £42,000,000 may be assumed to have been preferential capital, and nearly £70,000,000 would appear to have been borrowed on the security of the undertakings. The number of miles of railway in course of construction on the 30th of June, 1853, was 682 miles, and the number of men employed on them was 37,764. The number of miles open for traffic at that date was 7,512, and the number of men employed 80,409. The number of men employed on railways open for traffic was 9·5 per mile in 1852, and 10·7 per mile in 1853. The total number of passengers conveyed on railways in the United Kingdom in the year 1853, amounted to 102,286,660; the number in 1852 had been 89,135,729. The total receipts from all sources of traffic amounted in 1853 to £18,035,879, and in 1852 to £15,710,554.

Abstract of Railway Meetings.

ABERDEEN.

THE half-yearly meeting of this company was held at Aberdeen, on Thursday, October 26th, the chairman of the directors presiding, when a dividend at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum on the preference stock was agreed to.

The report stated that the traffic receipts for the past six months amounted to 49,973*l.*, and the expenses to 25,695*l.*, leaving 24,278*l.* Out of this is deducted 12,892*l.* for interest on debentures, &c., and 6,047*l.* for Arbroath and Forfar guaranteed rent, leaving 5,339*l.* To this is added 5,224*l.*, the surplus on previous half-years, making together 10,563*l.* The directors believe that the revenue, as from the 1st of May last, will be sufficient to maintain the full dividend on the 6 per cent. preference stock of the company; and they propose to pay the amount for the half-year to the 1st of November next on the 11th of that month. The comparative statement of revenue shows that the traffic receipts for the half-year ending the 31st of July, 1851, amounted to 35,283*l.*; ending the 31st July, 1852, to 38,919*l.*; ending the 31st July, 1853, to 41,656*l.*; and for the half-year ending the 31st July, 1854, to 49,973*l.* The working charges, including feu-duty, rent, and taxes, amounted to 20,216*l.*, 22,301*l.*, 24,238*l.*, and 25,695*l.*, for the same periods respectively. The net revenue amounted to 15,021*l.*, 16,617*l.*, 17,418*l.*, and 24,278*l.* respectively. The gross increase of revenue in the past half-year over that for the corresponding period last year, amounts to 8,317*l.*, while the excess of working charges is 1,456*l.*, being only 17½ per cent. upon the increase. The total working charges are less by 6½ per cent. than those of the half-year corresponding. The directors, in April last, entered into a contract for maintaining the line and works for a period of three years, at 65*l.* per mile per annum—a sum considerably under the average amount previously paid. An agreement has been entered into with the directors of the Deeside Railway Company for the use, by that company, of the passenger station at Aberdeen, and of the railway between the station and the junction of the Deeside line—a distance of about three quarters of a mile. The Deeside Company are to pay the Aberdeen Company 700*l.* a year for the first three years, and 1,000*l.* every year thereafter, until their revenue shall exceed 12,000*l.* per annum, when they are to pay 25*l.* additional rent for every 500*l.* of gross revenue above that sum. During the half-year the capital account has been increased to the extent of 32,962*l.*, of which 16,000*l.* has been for new station and works at Aberdeen, 8,169*l.* for compensation to contractors and for work performed, 6,306*l.* for locomotive engines and goods waggons, and 1,076*l.* for interest on accounts connected with capital. With regard to the debenture stock, 70,000*l.* has been disposed of, and there still remains a balance of 50,000*l.* unappropriated. The claim of 7,000*l.* by Messrs. Blaikie, Brothers, founded upon an alleged contract for cast-iron chairs entered into in February, 1846, while Mr. T. Blaikie was chairman of the company, was finally decided by the House of Lords in the month of July last, in favour of the company. The directors will, as on former occasions, ask authority to issue deferred dividend warrants to the holders of the 7 per cent. preference stock for the half-year's dividend falling due thereon at the 1st of November next. The capital account shows that 1,756,724*l.* had been received and 1,833,356*l.* expended, leaving a balance of 76,632*l.* against the company. The total amount of capital authorised to be raised by the company is 1,865,862*l.*, and the amount raised 1,760,932*l.*, leaving 104,929*l.* to be raised. The revenue account for the half-year ending the 31st July last, showed that 49,973*l.*, or 55*l.* 14*d.* per train mile, had been received, and 25,695*l.*, or 28*l.* 35*d.* per train mile expended, leaving 24,278*l.* to meet interest on loans, preference charges, and so forth.

BELFAST AND COUNTY DOWN.

THE half-yearly meeting of this company was held on Thursday, August 31st, at Belfast, Mr. Guy Stone, chairman of the directors, presiding, when the following report was adopted:—

The directors state that there appears in the balance-sheet a profit of 3,430*l.*, out of which the directors recommend a dividend of 13*s.* per share, leaving a sum of 274*l.* to be carried to the reserved fund.

BLYTH AND TYNE.

THE half-yearly meeting of this company was held at Newcastle, on Monday, August 28th, Mr. John Carr in the chair, when a dividend was declared upon the half-year of 25*s.* on the preference shares, and 22*s.* 6*d.* on the ordinary shares.

The report stated that the gross revenue for the half-year amounted to 20,258*l.*, being a large increase upon the corresponding period of 1853. The working charges and other expenses for the half-year are 14,178*l.*, which is an increase upon those for the same period of last year, arising chiefly from the high rate of wages, &c. The company have likewise completed extensive repairs and renewals to the locomotive stock, which is now in efficient order. After deducting the working charges from the revenue and the balance in hand on the 1st of January last, there remains 6,613*l.* applicable to a dividend. This sum, after paying the guaranteed dividend, at the rate of 10*l.* per cent. on the preference shares, will enable the company to divide 1*l.* 2*s.* 6*d.* per share, being at the rate of 9*l.* per cent. per annum upon the ordinary share capital, payable on the 27th of September next. The two branch railways to Longhirst and Tynemouth have received the sanction of Parliament during the past session. The construction of the public docks at the termination of the railway on the Tyne is progressing.

BRISTOL AND EXETER.

THE twenty-sixth half-yearly meeting of proprietors in this company was held on Thursday, August 24th, at the White Lion Hotel, Bristol, Mr. J. W. Buller, the chairman of the board of directors, presiding, when a resolution, declaring a dividend of 2½ per cent. for the half-year, was adopted.

The report stated that the gross traffic receipts upon the Bristol and Exeter Railway, from the 1st January to the 30th June, 1854 (including the sum of 2,044*l.* received on the Exeter and Crediton Railway), amount to the sum of 142,797*l.*, which is 25,074*l.* more than in the corresponding half of the year 1853, although the mail service was then estimated at 1,152*l.* more than under the new award is receivable for the half-year. The working expenses during the same period (including those of the Exeter and Crediton Railway and the Durston and Yeovil Branch) amount to 75,346*l.*, or 52·22 per cent. of the gross receipts, and 672*l.* per mile on 112 miles of railway. The increase in revenue, in comparison with the corresponding period of 1853, amounted to 12,279*l.* upon passengers, and 14,275*l.* upon goods, less 1,455*l.* decrease upon mails and parcels—total 25,099*l.*, while the increase of working expenses, including 1,813*l.* additional taxation, amounted to 15,788*l.*, being 9,311*l.* additional net revenue. The disposable balance of the general revenue account, including the sum of 7,112*l.* brought over from the previous half-year, is 49,102*l.*, which will provide for a dividend of 4½ per cent. per annum, or 2½ per cent. for the half-year on the 2,000,000*l.* of consolidated stock, and leave a surplus of 4,102*l.* Agreeably to the plan approved at the last half-yearly meeting, of paying the costs incurred in promoting the Devon and Dorset bill in Parliament by instalments from the revenue, the directors

recommend the proprietors to apply the sum of 3,000*l.* to that object out of the present surplus. The moiety payable by this company amounts to the sum of 13,608*l.*, exclusive of the bill of one of the country solicitors not yet delivered. The quantity of coke consumed was 6,725 tons, and the number of miles run by the engines 114,223. The passenger engines consumed 25·89*lb.* per mile; the goods engines 50·06*lb.* per mile; and the pilot engines 95·77*lb.* per mile. The cost of coke per ton is 18*s.* 9*d.* The stock of locomotive engines on the 30th of June consisted of 20 large passenger engines, 12 goods, and 14 tank: total, 46 engines. The increase of traffic on the line, the adoption of the narrow gauge on the Bristol and Gloucester Railway, and the working of the North Devon and Somerset Central Railways, continue to give occasion for further outlay of capital, not only for rolling stock, but for additional station accommodation, both for passengers and goods. To meet these present and other probable demands upon capital, arising partly from the cost of completing the Yeovil branch, which now amounts to upwards of 283,000*l.*, it will be desirable to apply to Parliament for further powers. The North Devon Line was opened for public traffic on the 1st of August, under the agreement with Mr. Brassey for this company to furnish engine power and rolling stock for one year. The arrangement with the Exeter and Crediton Railway Company terminated on the same day, and a continuation of the agreement for one year has been entered into, with a slight modification of the terms. It has been found necessary to raise the remainder of the capital of that company, authorised by their act of Parliament, in preference shares, at 5 per cent.; and it has been proposed to divide the amount rateably between this company and the London and South Western Company (in addition to the sums previously taken) as follows, viz., 2,160*l.* by the London and South Western Company, and 1,440*l.* by the Bristol and Exeter—total, 3,600*l.* The statement of accounts for the past half-year ending 30th June, shows that the total receipts on capital account amount to 3,535,694*l.*, and the expenditure to 3,054,280*l.*, leaving a balance of 481,413*l.* The company's subscriptions to other railways amount to 426,513*l.*—viz., to the South Devon Railway, 300,000*l.*; the Exeter and Crediton Railway, 34,713*l.*; the North Devon Railway, 1,600*l.*; the Plymouth Great Western Docks, 12,500*l.*; the Somerset Central Railway, 1,700*l.*; and the Cornwall Railway, 76,000*l.* The revenue account for the half-year ending 30th June, shows that 144,278*l.* had been received. The expenditure had been 75,346*l.*, including Government duty 3,379*l.*, and parochial rates and taxes 4,705*l.*, leaving a balance of 68,933*l.*

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE.

THE half-yearly meeting of this company was held on Friday, August 11th, at the Euston station, Sir H. Verney in the chair, when the directors' report was agreed to, which stated that the revenue accounts showed a balance at the bankers' of 593*l.* after paying the last dividend of 24,665*l.*, being at the rate of 4 per cent. per annum on 1,245,000*l.*

CALEDONIAN.

THE half-yearly meeting of proprietors was held on Thursday, Sept. 21, at the London Tavern; Mr. Fenton, of Rochdale, in the chair. A dividend was declared on the preference stock of the company at the rate of 4*l.* 4*s.* per cent. per annum, and on the consolidated ordinary stock of 3*l.* per cent. per annum, less income-tax in both cases. The report of the directors states that the accounts for the half-year show a balance of 59,931*l.*, and from the last half-year of 2,397*l.*, making a disposable sum of 62,328*l.* Out of this is deducted

15,648*l.* for the preferential dividend, leaving 46,679*l.*, which enables the directors to recommend a dividend on the ordinary stock at the rate of 3 per cent. per annum, amounting to 45,741*l.*, and carrying a surplus to the next half-year of 938*l.* For the same period in 1853 the rate of dividend was only 2 per cent. The gross revenue for the half-year ending the 31st of July amounted to 275,068*l.*, and for the corresponding period of 1853 to 239,893*l.*, showing an increase of 35,174*l.* The working expenses for the past half-year amounted to 117,973*l.*, and for the corresponding period of 1853 to 102,285*l.*, showing an increase of 13,687*l.* in the working expenses, and of 21,487*l.* in the net receipts. The working expenses have been at the rate of 43 per cent. of the revenue as against 43½ per cent. at the corresponding period of last year. Economy, so far as consistent with safe and efficient service, has been practised; and it is believed that the works completed, in progress, or about to be commenced, will conduce still more to economise expenditure, while they cannot fail to increase the traffic. The average rate of interest on the debenture debt, from the 31st of July, 1853, to the 31st of January, 1854, was about 4½ per cent., while the rate for the last half-year was 4½—but a trifling increase, considering the state of the money market. The company's credit is on the best footing, and they can at all times borrow as cheaply as any other railway company. During the last half-year the rolling stock has been considerably increased. Since 1851 new engines and carriages have been supplied, and more continue to be made, in room of old and worn-out plant. Extensive new works are in progress at Carlisle, Carstairs, Greenock, St. Rollox, and at the south end of the Barrhead line; and generally smaller, though not less necessary, works have been completed along the railway. The capital account to the 31st of July shows that 7,877,413*l.* had been received, and 7,787,049*l.* expended, leaving a balance of 90,363*l.* The expenditure on the Caledonian line amounted to 3,561,330*l.*; on the Garnkirk to 411,907*l.*; on the Clydesdale Junction to 570,726*l.*; on the Greenock to 864,482*l.*; on the Wishaw to 404,110*l.*; on the Barrhead to 340,791*l.*; on engines, waggons, and carriages to 621,776*l.*; stock issued under Arrangements Act for abatement of guaranteed dividends, 638,226*l.*; arrears of guaranteed dividends paid, 57,750*l.*; and loss from shares purchased in other lines, 319,951*l.*; total expenditure, as above, 7,787,049*l.* The revenue account for the half-year ending the 31st of July last, showed that 278,218*l.* had been received, and 121,552*l.* expended for working, including taxation; 4,471*l.*, feu duty, &c.; 47,582*l.*, interest on loans; 1,924*l.*, debenture charges; 2,020*l.*, parliamentary expenses; and 40,737*l.*, guaranteed dividends, leaving a balance of 59,931*l.* The average cost of locomotive power was at the rate of 7·963*d.* per mile per train, and, including carriage and waggon stock, 10·273*d.* per mile per train.

CHESTER AND HOLYHEAD.

THE half-yearly meeting of the shareholders of the company was held on Tuesday, September 19th, at the Euston-square station; Mr. S. M. Peto, M.P., presided; when a dividend of 8*s.* 3*d.* per share on the first preference shares was declared.

The following report was read:—The statement of accounts shows the result, in money, of the past half-year, namely, an increase in the receipts, compared with the corresponding period of the previous year, of 11,096*l.* 15*s.* 5*d.*, of which amount 8,381*l.* 6*s.* 7*d.* has been derived from the railway, and 2,715*l.* 8*s.* 10*d.* from the steam-boats. The relative per centage of expenses, on the other hand, shows but a very slight increase, notwithstanding the rise in value both of labour and materials, more particularly in that portion of the latter required for the steam-boat department. With respect to the receipts

from the merchandise vessels, it will be in the remembrance of the proprietors that in the statement of accounts submitted to them on 18th of March last, a balance appeared against the merchandise vessels of 1,817*l.* 3*s.* 11*d.*; and in explanation, it was stated in the directors' report that the merchandise traffic between England and Ireland was not at that time fully entered upon. The establishment of an improved system for through transit of goods between England and Ireland will materially assist in developing the resources of the latter country; and your directors trust that the subject will, ere long, receive from other companies interested the consideration due to so important an object. The comparative statement subjoined exhibits the number of passengers and tonnage of merchandise conveyed, as compared with the corresponding period of previous years, and in which a satisfactory increase is shown. Comparative statement of passengers and goods traffic:—Number of passengers in the half-year ending June 30, 1850, 143,298; ditto June 30, 1851, 182,862; ditto June 30, 1852, 207,255; ditto June 30, 1853, 254,047; ditto June 30, 1854, 281,524. Tonnage of goods in the half-year ending June 30, 1850, 56,462; ditto 1851, 79,251; ditto 1852, 94,442; ditto 1853, 126,571; ditto 1854, 151,642. There was also annexed a comparative statement of receipts and expenditure during the same years, from which it appeared that the total income for the half-year ending 30th June, 1850, was 57,481*l.* 5*s.* 10*d.*; charges, 35,637*l.* 10*s.* 6*d.*; balance in favour of railway, 21,845*l.* 15*s.* 4*d.*; for corresponding half-year of 1851, income 61,662 13*s.* 9*d.*; charges, 33,184*l.* 4*s.* 8*d.*; balance, 28,477 19*s.* 1*d.*; for corresponding half-year 1852, income, 67,316 15*s.* 5*d.*; charges, 39,419*l.* 0*s.* 9*d.*; balance, 27,897*l.* 14*s.* 8*d.*; for corresponding half-year of 1853, income, 88,795*l.* 19*s.* 9*d.*; charges, 46,533*l.* 5*s.* 11*d.*; balance, 42,262*l.* 13*s.* 10*d.*; for the corresponding half-year of 1854, income, 97,177*l.* 6*s.* 4*d.*; charges, 51,681 3*s.*; balance, 45,496*l.* 3*s.* 4*d.* The per centage of expenses on receipts amounted in the half-year ending 30th June 1850, to 62 per cent.; corresponding half-year of 1851, 55 per cent.; ditto, 1852, 60 per cent.; ditto, 1853, 52½ per cent.; ditto, 1854, 53½ per cent. With respect to the steam-boats, the receipts for the half-year ending 30th June, 1850, was 4,089*l.* 16*s.* 2*d.*; expenses, 9,905*l.* 17*s.* 8*d.*; balance against steam-boats, 5,816*l.* 1*s.* 6*d.*; for the corresponding half-year of 1851, receipts, 4,208 5*s.* 1*d.*; expenses, 6,639*l.* 10*s.* 9*d.*; balance, 2,431*l.* 5*s.* 8*d.*; ditto, 1852, receipts, 6,812*l.* 10*s.* 3*d.*; expenses, 6,833 13*s.* 8*d.*; balance, 21*l.* 3*s.* 5*d.*; ditto, 1853, receipts, 15,227*l.* 7*s.* 1*d.*; expenses, 17,288 2*s.*; balance, 2,060*l.* 14*s.* 11*d.*; ditto, 1854, receipts, 17,942*l.* 15*s.* 11*d.*; expenses, 18,572*l.* 8*s.* 5*d.*; balance, 629*l.* 12*s.* 6*d.* The following statements were also contained in the report:—An act has been passed during the last session of Parliament, authorising a lease of the Bangor and Carnarvon Railway, on terms substantially the same as those submitted to and approved by the proprietors at the meetings held on 18th March and 26th June. The necessary steps will be at once taken to complete the arrangement and offer the shares to the proprietors of this railway. The accounts show a gross balance to the credit of revenue of 44,738*l.* 16*s.* 3*d.*, which, after deducting the interest on debentures, leaves a balance of 18,555*l.* 5*s.* 1*d.* available for dividend. The directors, therefore, recommended that the full dividend of 8*s.* 3*d.* per share for the half-year be declared on the first preference shares, leaving a balance of 1,230*l.* 5*s.* 1*d.* to be carried forward to the current half-year.

COLCHESTER AND STOUR VALLEY.

THE half-yearly meeting of this company was held at Colechester, on Wednesday, August 9th, Mr. T. L. Ewen in the chair.

The report, which was adopted, stated that the half-year's rent received from the Eastern Union Company was 4,542*l.*, from which had to be deducted

certain expenses, leaving a net balance in hand of 2,677*l.*, out of which the directors declared a dividend of 5*s.* 9*d.* per share, which left a balance to the credit of the company of 41*l.* This dividend was at the rate of 2*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.* per cent. per annum, clear of income tax.

DUBLIN AND BELFAST JUNCTION.

THE half-yearly meeting of the proprietors of this company was held on Wednesday, August 23rd, at their office, Talbot-street, Mr. John Barlow in the chair, when a dividend of 1*l.* 2*s.* 6*d.* per share, less income-tax, was agreed to. The report stated that the receipts for passengers and merchandise have exceeded those of the corresponding half-year of 1853, by 1,207*l.*, the passenger returns showing a decrease of 590*l.*, which is mainly attributable to the exhibition traffic in May and June having swelled the returns of the former period, and the merchandise showing an increase of 1,796*l.* The net balance to the credit of revenue for the past half-year is 16,946*l.* 2*s.*, to which is to be added the balance from the previous half-year, 8,911,140*l.*, making together a sum of 25,857 16*s.* available for dividend. And the directors recommended that a dividend of 1*l.* 2*s.* 6*d.* per share (less by income-tax) be declared and paid to the proprietors entitled thereto (being at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum), after which there would remain to be carried to the credit of the current half-year about 6,600*l.*

DUNDEE, PERTH, AND ABERDEEN JUNCTION.

THE half-yearly meeting of this company was held at Dundee, on Wednesday, August 30th, Lord Kinnaird in the chair, when a resolution was passed authorising the payment of the half-year's interest on the preference shares.

The report states that the directors, in terms of the wish expressed at the last meeting of the shareholders, that the capital account should be closed, have made a full and complete investigation into the affairs of the company, and they now submit a statement of the liabilities of the company, from which it will be seen that the capital account upon both lines can now be closed at the sum of 570,000*l.* This is exclusive of the debenture debt, amounting to 216,600*l.* The total liabilities of the company amount to 109,271*l.* Upon the floating debt, interest has hitherto been paid out of the revenue of the line. In the sum of 570,000*l.*, at which the capital account can be closed, is included an additional sum of 10,728*l.* to cover contingencies. The company has power, under their existing statutes, to raise stock to the amount of 260,000*l.*; 50,000*l.* of this stock is by the act authorised to be issued *pari passu* with the existing preference stock. Notwithstanding the depressed state of the staple trade of this district, occasioned by the war, the gross traffic shows an increase on the half-year over the corresponding period of last year, amounting to 2,013*l.* There has been, however, from the rise in wages, the high price of materials, and the additional tonnage carried, an increase in the working expenses of 784*l.* After meeting the working expenses, annual burdens, and interest on the debenture and floating debt, there remains, including the former balance, a free surplus of 3,731*l.* Out of this sum there falls to be paid the dividend on 22,018 preference shares of 3,440*l.* The directors propose that this dividend shall be paid on the 29th of September. The directors have found it necessary to make considerable additions to the rolling stock; but this has been fully taken into account in the statement of liabilities, so far as not liquidated. The whole plant and permanent way of the company have been maintained in a state of complete efficiency.

EAST ANGLIAN.

THE half-yearly meeting of this company was held on Friday, September 29th, at the London Tavern, Mr. H. Bruce in the chair, when resolutions were passed, declaring a dividend at the rate of $5\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. per annum for the half-year on the B stock, which was entitled to 6 per cent. ; and the holders of the scrip certificates of the 6 per cent. stock, on the latter being sent in for registration.

The report stated that the traffic for the half-year ending the 30th of June, amounted to 21,165*l.*, being 1,657*l.* over that of the corresponding period of 1853. This increase would have been considerably greater had it not been for the embarrassments caused by the severe weather and other circumstances which occurred at the beginning of the year. The increased cost of labour and of every description of stores, together with the amount on accidents, had had the effect of raising the working expenses of the Eastern Counties Company from 42 to 48 per cent., and from this cause the net earnings were only 11,753*l.* instead of 13,030*l.*, which they would have been had the working expenses remained the same as last year. The general account showed that 1,635,701*l.* had been received, including the new ordinary stock, recently created to pay off arrears, amounting to 269,206*l.*, and revenue to the amount of 76,565*l.*; and 1,632,614*l.* expended, leaving a balance of 3,086*l.* The revenue account for the half-year ending the 30th of June, showed that 21,919*l.* had been received, and 10,166*l.* expended, leaving a balance of 11,753*l.*

EAST KENT.

THE half-yearly meeting of this company took place at the London Tavern, on Monday, August 8th, Lord Sondes in the chair. There was no dividend.

The report said that the total amount received on capital and interest accounts up to the 30th June last, was 96,483*l.* 3*s.* 11*d.*, and the amount expended 38,623*l.* 2*s.* 4*d.*, leaving a balance of 57,852*l.* 14*s.* 7*d.*, since which period the company have received for calls in arrear a further sum of 7,265*l.*, making a total in hand of 55,124*l.* 24*s.* 7*d.*, of which 50,550*l.* is deposited with Government, as required by the company's act.

EASTERN COUNTIES.

THE thirty-sixth half-yearly meeting of shareholders in the above company was held on Tuesday, August 29th, at the London Tavern, Mr. David Waddington, chairman of the company, presiding, when a dividend of 3*s.* 6*d.* per share was agreed to.

The report states, that the receipts for the half-year ending June 30th, 1854, are 560,494*l.* The expenditure for the same period is 269,096*l.*, to which have to be added payments to the Norfolk, Eastern Union, East Anglian, and Great Northern Companies to the amount of 102,735*l.*, leaving a balance of 188,661*l.* to the credit of the Eastern Counties Company, subject to payments for preferential and mortgage interest amounting to 131,080*l.*, leaving 57,581*l.*, applicable for dividend upon the consolidated stock of the company, out of which the directors have declared a dividend of 3*s.* 6*d.* upon each 20*l.* share, which will leave a balance of 6,562*l.* to the credit of the current half-year. The directors regret that the result of the half-year's working does not exhibit a greater net revenue, as, with an increased traffic, the proprietors might, under ordinary circumstances, have looked for a larger return

upon their capital; but, when the peculiar circumstances which have operated upon the expenses of the past half-year are fully considered, the directors hope that any ground for dissatisfaction will be removed. The expenses have been increased by the additional price paid for coke, which the parties under contract with the company were bound to have supplied. The increased rate of wages and the advanced cost of every article necessary to the working of a railway, have also materially added to the expenses. The price of many articles has increased fully 50 per cent.; and the effect of these combined causes has been an increase in the working expenses entirely beyond the control of the board, and by which they have exceeded the amount of 46 per cent., at which this company is bound by the agreement with the other companies to work the traffic. The interest payable upon the mortgage debt of the company has been increased by the sum of 7,738*l.* upon the half-year, arising partly from the increase in the rate of interest, and partly from the augmented amount which has been raised, as detailed in the bond statement. The item of 5,737*l.* for accidents and compensation this half-year is also very heavy. It is satisfactory to state that the increased traffic is large, although not to the extent that might have been anticipated. The entire stoppage of the traffic of the line during the early part of the half-year from the severe snow storm, the breach of the coke contracts, and the deficiency of the wagon stock, are all causes that have, until the present time, acted against the receipts. The manager estimates the loss of traffic from the last of these causes alone at upwards of 700*l.* per week. The report of the locomotive superintendent states, that there has been a large increase both in the length of railway worked, and in miles run by trains, which increased the gross amount of expenditure; the increase in the mileage rate of 0.620 pence per mile still further added to the amount, of which 0.461 pence arises from the increase in the price of coke. In the items of repairs and renewals there has been a very slight increase, although rates of wages have been very much above those of last year, many of the materials and stores having increased in price to the extent of 50 per cent. The large increase in the proportion of goods trains over passenger trains has also added to the mileage cost of working. The proportion of goods to passenger trains is 75 per cent. The length of railway worked had been increased from 434 miles at the corresponding period to 565 miles in the past half-year. The total cost of the locomotive department was at the rate of 8.446 pence per mile, together 10.559 pence per mile per train. The revenue account shows that 555,649*l.* had been received during the half-year, and 287,441*l.* expended, leaving a balance of 268,207*l.* for division, of which the Eastern Counties Company take 191,577*l.*, the Eastern Union, 38,315*l.*, and the Norfolk, 38,315*l.* The amount received by the Eastern Counties Company on capital is 10,509,234*l.*, and the amount expended 10,471,078*l.*, leaving a balance of 38,163*l.*

EDINBURGH AND GLASGOW.

THE half-yearly meeting of the Edinburgh and Glasgow Railway was held on Tuesday, September 11th, in the Queen's Hotel, George-square, Mr. Peter Blackburn, of Killearn, chairman of the company, in the chair. A dividend at the rate of 3 per cent. per annum, less income-tax, was agreed to.

The report says, in laying before the proprietors the balance-sheet for the half-year ending 31st July, 1854, the directors are glad again to have to point out a considerable increase on the receipts, from passengers and goods, as compared with the corresponding period of 1853. The comparative statement is as follows, omitting fractions:—Passengers, 1853, 58,178*l.*; 1854, 61,545*l.*; increase, 3,366*l.* Goods, 1853, 43,114*l.*; 1854, 53,427*l.*; increase, 10,313*l.*

Horses, carriages, parcels and mails, 1853, 4,139*l.*; 1854, 5,588*l.*; increase 1,449*l.*; total increase, 15,128*l.* On the other hand, the working expenses have increased very considerably—they are 7,907*l.* in excess of those of the corresponding half-year. There has been an increase on the mileage run, but the rise of price on materials of all kinds is the chief cause of this excess. The net balance of revenue, after payment of the Stirlingshire Midland Junction and Edinburgh and Bathgate rents, is 43,902*l.*, from which, however, it will be proper to set aside 5,000*l.* to cover all claim for rent and interest on arrears of rent, which may be found due to the Stirling and Dunfermline Company, 2,000*l.* for renewal of way, as after explained, and 2,000*l.* to pay this company's share of the expenses of the Caledonian and Edinburgh and Glasgow Joint Working Bill; thus leaving a free balance of 34,902*l.*, from which the directors recommend payment of a dividend of 3 per cent. per annum, amounting to 33,350*l.*, and that the balance of 1,551*l.* may be added to the rest, which will thus amount to 60,624*l.* On capital account, it will be seen that the only charge made on the old line has been the sum of 1,099*l.*, paid for completing the additions to, and alterations of, your hotel property: 2,000*l.* has been lent, at 4 per cent. interest, to a Stirlingshire Road Trust, under the obligations of your original act; and 22,982*l.* has been paid for 3 engines and 290 waggons and trucks to be employed principally for working on the Stirling and Dunfermline Railway. The revenue accounts show that the traffic continues to increase satisfactorily. The works and plant are in very good order; about four miles of the line have been relaid during the summer, wood sleepers being substituted for stone blocks. A considerable addition has been made to the mileage of rails to be maintained, since you resolved to appropriate 6,235*l.* half-yearly to this purpose, which has caused an excess of expenditure above this allowance, now amounting to 4,000*l.* Of this it is thought proper to write off 2,000*l.* against this half-year's revenue; and your engineer has been instructed to report on the whole subject, that the amount hereafter to be applied may be reconsidered.

EDINBURGH, PERTH, AND DUNDEE.

THE half-yearly meeting of this company was held at Edinburgh, on Friday, September 1st; Sir William Dunbar, vice-chairman presiding. Resolutions were passed, declaring 4 per cent. dividend on the Granton preference stock and the 5*l.* preference stock.

The report shows that the gross revenue for the half-year amounted to 75,888*l.*, and the expenses to 43,618*l.*, leaving a balance of 32,270*l.* To this is added 256*l.* from the last account, making 32,527*l.* Out of this sum, in accordance with the Company's Arrangements Act, 16,942*l.* is appropriated to the payment of interest on the first-class debentures; 9,233*l.* to the payment of interest on the second-class debentures; 1,840*l.* to the dividend on the Granton preference stock, at the guaranteed rate of 4 per cent. per annum; and 4,095*l.* to the dividend on the 5 per cent preference stock, at the guaranteed rate of 4 per cent. per annum, less income-tax, leaving a balance of 416*l.* The increase in receipts for the past half-year amounted to 10,968*l.*, as compared with the corresponding half-year of 1853. Of this increase, 2061*l.* has been derived from passenger, and 8,541*l.* from goods and mineral traffic. After deducting the additional charge of 4,305*l.*, there remains a net gain of 6,662*l.* on the half-year. Continued efforts are being made to place the rolling stock in a thorough state of efficiency, and to increase its carrying capacity, as by such means, together with the improved accommodation now being effected on the line, the increasing traffic will be more satisfactorily and economically conducted. During the past twelve months, a considerable por-

tion of the waggon stock has undergone a thorough renewal. Deducting an increased charge of 921*l.*, entered in the accounts for income-tax, the half-year's excess of working expenditure is reduced to 3,384*l.*, or 30·85 per cent. of the additional revenue. In adverting to this excess, it is proper to notice that the general rise in wages, and in the various articles of consumption, has added largely to the expense, while 4,876*l.* has been expended last half-year in general repairs on the rolling stock, and charged to revenue—the corresponding charges in the three half-years preceding having been 4,467*l.*, 3,948*l.* and 4,361*l.*, respectively. In reference to the appropriation of the increased receipts entirely to the payment of interest and preference dividends, it is to be observed that the revenue of the corresponding period of last year fell considerably short of the claims ranking preferentially upon it, an arrear having accrued on the Granton preference dividend, while, as respects the dividend on the 5*l.* preference stock, no payment whatever was made. These claims are now met and discharged to the full extent, notwithstanding the sum required for division on the 5*l.* preference stock is larger than formerly, partly from a whole half-year's dividend being now payable on the allocation, under the act, to the holders of debentures and Granton preference stock, and partly from a portion of the stock set aside for the liquidation of the bank debts, recently disposed of by the parties invested by the Arrangements Act with its control, being now also brought in for a half-year's dividend. On the other hand, the application which has just been made of the proceeds, amounting to 38,399*l.*, towards the liquidation of these debts, will hereafter correspondingly diminish, the interest thereon ranking preferentially to the guaranteed dividends. In a previous report, it was announced that, in the submission in regard to the Edinburgh station, the referee, Mr. Brunel, had intimated his final determination to award this company 38,300*l.* of compensation. Since then he has further decided to grant the company interest on that sum, at the rate of 5 per cent., for the period from the 1st of January, 1849, till payment. The matter of expenses only now remains for disposal by the referee. For the protection of the company's interests, the directors deemed it necessary to appear in opposition to the bill promoted last session by the Scottish Central and Scottish Midland Companies, for a union of those two undertakings. The opposition proved successful, the bill being rejected by the committee. Every care having been taken to effect the object with the greatest economy, the whole expense will not exceed 385*l.* The short railway constructed by the Leven Company, in connection with this line, has just been opened for traffic. The capital account shows that 3,161,262*l.* had been received, and 3,153,400*l.* expended; leaving a balance of 7,862*l.* The number of miles run by the trains during the half-year was 252,593, and the cost of locomotive power and repairs to engines 8,574*l.*, or 8 14*d.* per mile; the cost of passenger trains being 5·26*d.* per mile, and of goods and mineral trains 10·25*d.* per mile. The cost of working, and repairs to carriages and trucks, amounted to 2,218*l.*, and the cost per mile 2·10*d.*; total cost of both, 10·25*d.* per mile. The average quantity of coke consumed by passenger trains was 14·76 lb., and by goods and mineral trains, 34·55 lb.

GLASGOW AND SOUTH-WESTERN.

THE half-yearly general meeting of this company was held on Wednesday, Sept. 6, in the Merchants' Hall, Glasgow; Mr. Andrew Orr, chairman of the company, in the chair. A dividend at the rate of 3½ per cent. per annum was adopted.

The report states that the traffic receipts for the half-year ending the 31st of July, amounted to 133,200*l.*, and for the corresponding period of 1853 to 116,318*l.*, showing an increase of 16,882*l.* The increase in the number of

passengers was 50,084. The board trust that the progressive improvement in the revenue of the company, which has been exhibited during several half-years successively, will continue. The directors have unanimously arrived at the conclusion that the interests of the company cannot be better promoted than by obtaining the necessary parliamentary powers to raise about 50,000*l.* for the purchase of first-class steamers to be employed in the Irish trade. They have selected Kilmarnock as the most central point for the locomotive workshops, and they believe that the probable expenditure of 45,000*l.* will be amply repaid by greater facilities for repairs and economy in the arrangements. After providing for all contingencies, and the amounts due on several preferential stocks, they have placed at the disposal of the shareholders 46,901*l.*, which will allow of a dividend at the rate of 3½ per cent. per annum, to be declared payable on the 18th instant, subject to deduction of income-tax, leaving a balance of 3,752*l.* The Ardrossan Purchase Act having passed, the company entered into possession of that line on the 1st of August last. Its length, including mineral branches, is about 12 miles, and the traffic on it is now included in the weekly published revenue. The report alludes to various extensive schemes which, it appears, the directors are desirous of supporting by contributions from the general funds of the company. The capital account shows that 3,957,044*l.* has been expended on the line and branches; 11,000*l.* on the Ayr and Dalmellington Railway; and 209,927*l.* in stocks of this and other companies, making together 4,177,971*l.*, being 44,579*l.* in excess of the receipts. The loans on mortgage amount to 916,015*l.*, and the average interest is at the rate of 3*l.* 17*s.* 8*d.* per cent. The revenue account for the half-year shows that 136,923*l.* has been received, and 78,036*l.* expended, leaving a balance of 60,810*l.*, including 1,923*l.* from last account. The engineer's report states that the receipts for passenger trains averaged 4*s.* 5½*d.* per mile, and the expenses 1*s.* 9*d.*; while the receipts for goods trains averaged 3*s.* 8½*d.* per mile, and the expenses 1*s.* 7*d.* per mile.

GLoucester and DEAN FOREST.

THE half-yearly meeting of this company was held at Gloucester, on Saturday, August 12th, Mr. S. Baker, chairman of the directors, presiding, when a dividend was declared, in accordance with the following recommendation of the directors.

The report referred to the financial statement which, it pointed out, enabled the company to declare a dividend at the rate of 4 per cent. per annum, clear of income-tax, the balance of 486*l.*, being about sufficient to pay the instalment of interest, which would fall due in October next, on the debenture debt. Since the last meeting, in February, the seal of the Great Western Company had been affixed to the counterpart lease of the line to that company. In the last report a belief had been expressed that the Hereford, Ross, and Gloucester line (in which line this company is largely interested), would be completed for opening within the present year. The state of the works of that line, and the exertions which continued to be made, were such as to encourage the expectation that the opening of the line for public traffic would not be deferred longer than the month of October next.

GREAT WESTERN.

THE half-yearly meeting of this company was held at the Bristol station, on Thursday, August 18th, Mr. Charles Russell in the chair, when it was resolved, that a dividend at the rate of 3 per cent. per annum for the half-year ending

the 30th of June last, be ordered to be paid on and after the 1st of September next, on the consolidated stock of the company, and on the amount called up on the Great Western (Windsor) shares. The said dividend to be payable to the proprietors who were registered at the closing of the books.

The report stated that the total receipts on capital account amount to 20,139,202*l.* This sum consists of 8,155,567*l.* consolidated stock, 7,784*l.* calls on Windsor Railway shares, 59,302*l.* on Berks and Hants extension shares, 3,447,061*l.* of 4½ and 4 per cent. redeemable, and irredeemable preference stock, 6,490,789*l.* on debentures, loans, and loan-notes, and 1,978,698*l.* securities on the Birmingham and Oxford, and Birmingham, Wolverhampton, and Dudley railways. The total expenditure on capital account to the 30th June, amounts to 19,482,888*l.*, leaving a balance of 656,313*l.* The amount expended on the Great Western, Oxford Junction, Berks and Hants, Windsor, and other lines, and for locomotive stock, including 70,457*l.* expended on the Cheltenham and Oxford line, which has been abandoned, is 10,740,346*l.*; on the Oxford and Rugby line, 1,211,855; on the Birmingham and Oxford Railway, 3,058,900*l.*; on the Wilts, Somerset, and Weymouth, 427,187*l.*; on the Birmingham, Wolverhampton, and Dudley, 1,506,721*l.*; on the Uxbridge Branch Railway, 37,767*l.*; and on the Didcot Junction Deviation line, 18,674*l.* The company's subscriptions to other railways amount to 1,688,664*l.*, of which the interest on 787,920*l.* is borne by revenue. The subscriptions, &c., to the South Wales Railway amounted to 581,000*l.*; to the South Devon Railway, to 225,000*l.*; to the Gloucester and Forest of Dean, 94,744*l.*; to the Oxford, Worcester, and Wolverhampton, 183,857*l.*; to the Cornwall Railway, 36,562*l.*; to the Wycome, 10,000*l.*; and to the Plymouth Great Western Dock, 12,500*l.* The expenditure under the votes of the proprietors for new rolling stock, amounted to 374,878*l.*; for the new station at Paddington, 318,090*l.*; for the Paddington Hotel, 49,135*l.*; and for new works and dock at Bull's-bridge, and additional houses, workshops, &c., at Swindon, 50,668*l.*, making the total expenditure, as above, 19,482,888*l.*, and leaving a balance of 656,313*l.* The revenue account for the half-year ending the 30th of June, shows that 620,887*l.* had been received, including 7,050*l.* rent from Bristol and Birmingham Railway, and dividends on Cheltenham and Gloucester tramroad; 14,251*l.* for the use of plant by other companies; 2,712*l.* interest on cash balances of revenue; and 4,335*l.* rent of property and registration fees. The expenditure amounted to 262,618*l.*, including 14,069*l.* Government duty, 13,079*l.* rates and taxes, and 2,500*l.* legal and Parliamentary expenses, leaving a balance of 358,269*l.* To this sum is added 19,963*l.*, the balance from the last account, and 11,045*l.* dividends received on shares held by the company in the South Devon, the South Wales, and the Gloucester and Dean Forest Railways, making the total disposable sum 389,278*l.* Out of this is deducted 555*l.* for additions to works on lines opened; 16,482*l.* annuities of 4 per cent. per annum, guaranteed to the shareholders of the Wilts, Somerset, and Weymouth Railway, for the past half-year; 1,328*l.* interest on Berks and Hants extension shares; 5,715*l.* rent of Gloucester and Dean Forest Railway, at the rate of 4½ per cent. per annum; 1,298*l.* rent-charge on Paddington estate; 74,908*l.* interest on preference stock, and 120,816*l.* interest paid on loans, leaving 168,074*l.* for dividend. From this is deducted 30,000*l.*, being the sum appropriated to liquidate the claim of the Shrewsbury and Chester, and Shrewsbury and Birmingham shareholders, leaving 138,074*l.* A dividend at 1½ per cent. for the half-year on 8,236,276*l.* Great Western consolidated stock, will amount to 123,544*l.*, and leave a balance of 14,530*l.* The board, in transmitting the accounts to the proprietors, explain the reasons why the latter will be required at the ensuing meeting to forego a portion of the ordinary dividend (at the rate of 4 per cent. per annum), which, under other circumstances, would have been declared

payable for the half-year. The dividend at that rate would have amounted to 164,725*l.*, for which the disposable revenue earned exclusively upon the Great Western lines has been more than adequate, inasmuch as a small sum would still have remained to be carried over as a balance, after dividing at the rate of 4 per cent. per annum.

GREAT NORTHERN.

THE half-yearly meeting of this company was held on Saturday, August 26th, at the London Tavern, Mr. E. Denison, M.P., in the chair, when resolutions were passed, declaring a dividend for the half-year, at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum upon the perpetual preference stock; at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum upon the redeemable preference stock; at the rate of 4½ per cent. per annum on the redeemable preference stock; at the rate of 2*l.* 15*s.* per cent. per annum on the original undivided stock; and at the rate of 5½ per cent. per annum on the B stock, as guaranteed by the A stock.

The report stated that, after providing for all charges against revenue, there remains available for dividend upon the original stock, including the B stock, the balance of 67,314*l.* This will afford a dividend for the half-year ended the 30th of June last, at the rate of 2½ per cent. per annum on the original stock, and of 5½ per cent. on the B stock; and these rates of dividend the directors recommend to be paid. There will then remain the sum of 1,198*l.* to be carried to the next account. They state that this dividend undoubtedly contrasts unfavourably with the dividend declared in February, for the half-year ended 31st December, 1853. After alluding to the severe snow-storm in January last, which they state occasioned an actual loss of receipt from traffic of at least 7,000*l.*, besides causing a very heavy expenditure in clearing and repairing the line—several engines and trains having been for three days immovably imbedded in snowdrifts, they state that the traffic receipts for the half-year ending on the 30th of June last, exceeded those of the corresponding period of 1853, by 88,365*l.* The total receipts being 469,943*l.*, as against 381,578*l.* at the corresponding period of 1853, shows the excess of 88,365*l.* The working and other expenses for the half-year ending the 30th of June last, amounted to 243,337*l.*, or 51·78 per cent. of the receipts, while the working and other expenses at the corresponding period of 1853, amounted only to 174,880*l.*, or 45·83 per cent. of the receipts, showing an increase of 68,457*l.* in the expenses over the corresponding period, leaving the net profit on the 88,365*l.* increased traffic, about 19,908*l.* The net revenue for the half-year ending the 30th of June last, amounted to 226,605*l.*, and for the corresponding period of 1853, to 206,698*l.* It will be observed that the dividend for the past half-year is recommended at the rate of 2*l.* 15*s.* per cent. per annum, while at the corresponding period of 1853, a dividend at the rate of 2*l.* 10*s.* per cent. per annum for the half-year was declared on the same amount of ordinary capital, showing an increase in the dividend of 2*s.* 6*d.* per 100*l.* of original stock in the dividend for the last half-year over the corresponding period of 1853; or, in other words, an increase of about 6,000*l.* in the amount available for dividend on the ordinary shares during the half-year, out of an increase in the gross receipts of 88,365*l.* This result shows the folly of ordinary shareholders looking for anything like a corresponding increase in dividend from increased traffic, and is chiefly owing to the great increase in the working expenses, and also in the amount of preference charges in consequence of the increase in the capital account. The Great Northern Company has from time to time acquired powers to raise capital to the amount of 11,128,025*l.* (including 800,000*l.* on account of the East Lincolnshire Railway). Over and above the balance remaining unex-

pended on the 30th of June last of the above-mentioned capital, ascertained liabilities exist to be provided for to the amount of about 450,000*l.* These liabilities consist of unsettled purchases of land, works of construction on the line, and for the workshops at Doncaster still in progress; the purchase from the Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway Company of half their property and rights in the viaduct at Leeds, forming the means of communication with the line to Bradford, over which the Great Northern trains now run; contracts for engines and various kinds of rolling stock in course of building, and necessarily ordered, in consequence of the steadily increasing traffic. This being the case, and the Great Northern Company having to provide also for working several branches or extensions of other companies, with the object of bringing additional traffic over the Great Northern line, which cannot be accomplished without further expenditure, and as it will clearly be of advantage in any financial operations that there should be a considerable amount of capital as a margin, or in reserve, beyond the unavoidable expenditure actually incurred and foreseen, the directors recommend that they be authorised to apply to Parliament in the next session for power to raise additional share capital to the extent of 1,000,000*l.*, together with the usual amount of borrowing powers, and that they be further authorised to adopt in the meantime such measures as may appear to them proper for obtaining such additional capital. The report of Mr. J. Cubitt, the engineer, with reference to the excess of the cost of the last half-year's maintenance over that of the preceding half-year, amounting to 11,790*l.*, states that the bulk of it has been incurred to the extent of 4,600*l.* on the maintenance of way, 2,600*l.* on maintenance of works, and 2,800*l.* on maintenance of station works. To the first of these—viz., the maintenance of way—is attributed the cost of removing the immense quantity of snow in the severe winter, which covered to a great depth nearly 200 miles of line, and cost 1,200*l.*, and to additional ballasting 3,400*l.* The second includes 1,750*l.*, caused by heavy slips in the embankments, and 750*l.*, repairs of timber bridges; and the third, the increase of 2,800*l.*, is chiefly owing to renewals of switches and crossings at most of the principal stations. The locomotive superintendent in his report states that 2,425,524 train miles have been run during the half-year, and that it has been necessary, in order to work and keep up the stock, to expend a larger total amount, as well as a greater sum per mile, than at any former period. The increase has arisen from an increased mileage of goods traffic, the continued advance of wages, from the high price of materials; and, lastly, from the natural increase of cost due to the stock becoming older, and its having been worked hitherto at a particularly low cost per mile. The capital account showed that 10,430,111*l.* had been received, including 150,421*l.* temporary loans from traffic account, and 10,401,172*l.* expended, leaving a balance of 28,939*l.* The revenue account shows that 469,943*l.* had been received during the half-year ending 30th June, and 243,337*l.* expended, leaving a balance of 226,605*l.* The expense of maintaining 283 miles of railway during the half-year was 42,856*l.* The average consumption of coke per mile was 203*lb.* by passenger engines, and 379*lb.* by goods engines. The cost of working, including rates and taxes and Government duty, was at the rate of 2*s.* per mile per train. The length of railway worked by the Great Northern trains is 409 miles, including 126 miles of foreign lines.

IRISH SOUTH EASTERN.

THE half-yearly meeting of this company was held on Saturday, August 26th, at their offices, in the building at the King's-bridge terminus, Dublin, Mr. John E. Redmond in the chair, when a dividend of 2*s.* per share was agreed to.

The report and statement of accounts were as follows:—The directors beg to submit the following summary of the traffic receipts on this line for the six

months, ended the 30th June last, by which it will be seen that there is an increase in your traffic revenue of more than 15 per cent., as compared with the corresponding period in the previous year :—Gross receipts for the half-year ending the 30th June, 1854, 5,558*l.* ; ditto, ditto, 1853, 4,808*l.* ; increase, 750*l.* The annual returns for the same date are very satisfactory, viz. :—Year ending 30th June, 1851—Passengers, 47,640 ; total receipts, 5,976*l.* 1852 :—Passengers, 52,602 ; total receipts, 8,419*l.* 1853 :—Passengers, 60,850 ; total receipts, 9,863*l.* 1854 :—Passengers, 71,064 ; total receipts, 11,934*l.* The working expenses of the last six months have been slightly but unavoidably increased. The annexed balance sheet shows an available surplus of 2,194*l.*, out of which the directors recommend that a dividend be declared on the paid-up capital at the rate of 2*s.* per share, and that the balance, after payment of same, amounting to about 3*l.*, be carried to the credit of the current half-year. The permanent way and works continue in good order. The directors have the pleasure to report, that the bill for the Bagenalstown and Wexford Railway has received the Royal assent ; and in pursuance of its provisions, the present meeting will be made special, to enable this company to subscribe to and hold shares in the undertaking, to an amount not exceeding the sum of 50,000*l.* The balance sheet for the half-year ended June 30, 1854, shows—Debtor :—Deposits and calls from proprietors, 231,821*l.* 1*s.* 2*d.* ; Public Works Loan Commissioners, 33,500*l.* ; accounts due by the company, 2,827*l.* 13*s.* 9*d.* ; balance, revenue account, 2,194*l.* 9*s.* 3*d.* Total, 270,343*l.* 4*s.* 2*d.*—Creditor :—By expenditure previous to amalgamation, acts of incorporation, 1846, and cost of act, 1849, ditto, 37,652*l.* 18*s.* 10*d.* ; general charges—expenses of management, salaries, printing and stationery, office and incidental expenses, interest on paid-up capital, solicitor's costs, expenses and interest on Government loan, and engineering on the line, 34,364*l.* 0*s.* 4*d.* ; land (purchase and compensation), works (paid to contractors), permanent way, rails, chairs, sleepers, stations, buildings, &c., 184,648*l.* 16*s.* 6*d.* ; sundry accounts due to the company, 2,090*l.* 11*s.* 11*d.* ; balance in banker's hands, 11,586*l.* 16*s.* 7*d.* Total, 270,343*l.* 4*s.* 2*d.* The revenue account shows—Debtor :—To amount for locomotive power, including salaries and wages on the line, for six months ended 30th June, 1854, 2,746*l.* 11*s.* 3*d.* ; interest on Government loan, 679*l.* 8*s.* 6*d.* ; rent of line (Lavistown to Kilkenny) to the Waterford and Kilkenny Railway Company, half-year to March, 1854, 512*l.* 10*s.* ; salaries, accountant's office and audit, 106*l.* ; incidental and office expenses, 58*l.* 4*s.* 1*d.* ; income-tax and other charges, 35*l.* 11*s.* 8*d.*—4,158*l.* 5*s.* 6*d.* ; available surplus, 2,193*l.* 9*s.* 3*d.* Total, 6,352*l.* 14*s.* 9*d.*—Creditor :—By traffic, six months ended 30th June, 1854, viz., 1st class passengers, 600*l.* 15*s.* 6*d.* ; 2nd ditto, 914*l.* 11*s.* 3*d.* ; 3rd ditto, 1,160*l.* 10*s.* 4*d.* ; 1st class return ditto, 111*l.* 6*s.* 5*d.* ; 2nd ditto, 195*l.* 3*s.* 2*d.* ; military :—officers, 41*l.* 11*s.* ; soldiers, 124*l.* 9*s.* 6*d.* ; excess fares, 27*l.* 9*s.* 2*d.*—3,138*l.* 16*s.* 4*d.* Parcels, 120*l.* 17*s.* 2*d.* ; excess luggage, 111*l.* 7*s.* 8*d.* ; horses, 79*l.* 15*s.* 5*d.* ; carriages, 25*l.* 15*s.* 6*d.* ; dogs, 12*l.* 8*s.* 11*d.* ; goods and coals, 1,686*l.* 13*s.* 5*d.* ; cattle, 352*l.* 4*s.* 6*d.* ; mails, 130*l.* 6*s.* 2*d.*—5,558*l.* 8*s.* 1*d.* Transfer fees, 41*l.* 11*s.* 6*d.* ; amount to credit after payment of half-year's dividend, &c., 638*l.* 0*s.* 5*d.* ; balance of interest account, 651*l.* 13*s.* 9*d.*, 794*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.* Total, 6,352*l.* 14*s.* 9*d.*

LANCASTER AND CARLISLE.

THE half-yearly meeting of this company was held on Thursday, August 31, at Lancaster, Mr. E. W. Hassell in the chair, when a dividend in accordance with the following report was agreed to.

The report stated that the balance from the last account was 4,943*l.*, which, added to the receipts, amounted to 88,906*l.*, out of which the directors re-

commend a dividend at the rate of 8 per cent. per annum, which, with the proportion payable to the Lancaster and Preston Railway Company, and the interest on loans, would require 87,974*l.*, and 1,000*l.* carried to the renewal fund, which leaves 112*l.* The present dividend of 8 per cent. absorbs as much, within 666*l.*, as was required to pay 8½ per cent. on the capital in March last, owing to the dividend now paid on the new third shares. The accounts connected with the Scottish Central Railway have been so far adjusted as to warrant a transfer of the balance of 7,251*l.* to the credit of the renewal fund. The higher cost of wages and materials, as was anticipated, has increased the working expenses. It has been deemed expedient to make a call of 3*l.* per share on the old third shares, to liquidate the balance standing against the capital account, and to meet the cost of new waggons, and of additional workshops, &c.

LANCASHIRE AND YORKSHIRE.

THE half-yearly meeting of the proprietors of this company was held on Wednesday, Sept. 6, at the Palatine Hotel, Hunt's Bank, Manchester; Mr. H. W. Wickham in the chair, when a dividend at the rate of 3½ per cent. per annum was declared. The report of the directors stated that the amount of capital chargeable on revenue for the half-year ending 30th June last, excluding leased lines, consists of 8,344,660*l.* ordinary capital; 794,040*l.* guaranteed 6 per cent. stock; 251,720*l.* guaranteed 4½ per cent. stock; 13,395*l.* Manchester and Southport capital; and 2,707,534*l.* loans and moneys held in advance of calls; total 12,118,349*l.* The expenditure on capital account during the half-year amounted to 168,788*l.* The company's mortgage debt amounted on the 30th of June last to 2,695,441*l.*, and the average rate of interest to 4*l.* 3*s.* per cent. The directors propose to divide each West Riding 1*l.* share into two shares of 1*l.* and 3*l.* respectively, and to consolidate into stock all or any of the former which shall be paid up, leaving the latter with a nominal paid up amount of 5*s.* per share. The receipts of the company during the last half-year, including the receipts of the Sheffield and Wakefield line, and the company's proportion of the North Union line, have been 474,997*l.* Deducting the amount received for working the traffic of the Blackburn line, 7,926*l.*, and adding two-thirds of receipts on the Preston and Wyre line, 15,743*l.*, leaves the total 482,814*l.* The revenue account, excluding the Preston and Wyre and Blackburn lines, shows that 457,071*l.* had been received in the half-year ending 30th June, 1854, and 451,700*l.* in the corresponding period of 1853, showing an increase of 15,371*l.* The expenses amounted to 291,091*l.* at the former period, and to 188,113*l.* at the latter period, showing an increase in the expenditure of 12,978*l.* The increase in the number of passengers was 81,148, or 3 per cent., and in the miles travelled 1,205,191, or 3½ per cent. The increase in the tons of merchandise conveyed amounted to 59,389, or 5 per cent., and in the distance travelled 1,239,766 miles, or 4½ per cent. The unusually heavy fall of snow at the commencement of the month of January caused a complete suspension of the traffic, both in passengers and goods, for some days. The report adverts to the rise in the price of materials and labour; and it is proposed to charge the revenue account of each half-year, 2,500*l.* for the replacement of the locomotive stock, by engines better adapted in every respect to the necessities of the traffic. The renewal fund has been debited with an expenditure for relaying a portion of the permanent way during the half-year of 5,127*l.* The balance of revenue applicable to the payment of interest and dividend and other fixed charges is 289,026*l.*, out of which the directors recommend that a dividend at the rate of 3½ per cent. per annum, less income-tax, be declared on the ordinary stock, leaving a surplus of

13,590*l.* to be carried to the next account. The report refers to the bills passed in the last session, authorising traffic arrangements with other companies, and also to the proposed agreement for amalgamation with the East Lancashire Company. The receipts on capital account amounted to 12,308,441*l.* and the expenditure to 12,198,131*l.*, leaving a balance of 110,310*l.* The revenue account for the half-year shows that 490,741*l.* had been received, and 216,807*l.* expended, including 12,550*l.* for rates and taxes and government duty, leaving a balance of 273,934*l.* To this sum is added 3,606*l.* balance from last account, 7,640*l.* interest on settlements with other companies, and 3,545*l.* interest on cash balances and calls in arrear, making 289,026*l.* The guaranteed charges amount to 129,169*l.*, leaving 159,856*l.* for general dividend, which, at the rate of $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. per annum, amounts to 146,266*l.*, and leaves a balance of 13,590*l.*

LITTLE NORTH WESTERN.

THE seventeenth half-yearly meeting of the proprietors of this company was held on Wednesday, August 30th, at the North Western Hotel, Morecombe. Mr. Alcock, chairman of directors, presided, when a dividend after the rate of 1*s.* 6*d.* per share was declared. The report of the directors stated that the gross traffic receipts for the half-year are 23,585*l.* 5*s.* 8*d.* (being an increase of 2,247*l.* 15*s.* 2*d.* over 1853.) The working expenses amount to 12,992*l.* 11*s.* 8*d.* (say 11,409*l.* to Midland Company for working, and 1,513*l.* 11*s.* 8*d.* in miscellaneous expenses). After payment of fixed charges for interest, &c., a net balance remains of 3,004*l.* 17*s.* 3*d.*, available for a dividend of 1*s.* 6*d.* per ordinary share, free of income-tax. During the half-year, 15,932*l.* 6*s.* 1*d.* has been spent on capital account. *

LIVERPOOL, CROSBY AND SOUTHPORT.

THE half-yearly meeting was held at Liverpool, on Tuesday, August 29th, Mr. Hugh Hornby in the chair, but no dividend was declared.

The report stated that the gross receipts for traffic amount to 15,749*l.*, showing an excess of 2,358*l.* over the corresponding period of 1853. This increase, however, is more than absorbed by the additional charges for toll, 899*l.*, and for working expenses, 1,744*l.*, respectively, as compared with the like period of 1853. The sum of 864*l.* for extra mileage in 1853, not having been claimed by the Lancashire and Yorkshire Company until April last, appears as a charge in the present revenue account, and the payments have been further increased by the sum of 757*l.* for parliamentary expenses. The balance available for dividend is 2,150*l.*, but the directors unanimously recommend that this sum be carried forward to the current half-year. The existing agreement with the Lancashire and Yorkshire Company will expire on the 1st of January next, and the future mode of working the line, whether by contract or otherwise, is now under the serious consideration of the directors. A station at the North Docks has been opened, but its utility to the public cannot be fully developed until Lord Derby gives access to the docks and to Kirkdale. The expenditure on capital account amounted to 305,078*l.* on the 30th of June last.

LLYNVI VALLEY.

THE half-yearly meeting of this company was held on Friday, August 25th, at the Great Western Hotel, Paddington, Mr. Kindersley in the chair; when a dividend at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum for the half-year was agreed to.

The report stated that the receipts for the half-year ending the 30th of June amounted to 4,609*l.*, and the expenses to 2,808*l.*, leaving a surplus of 1,801*l.* against 1,588*l.* at the preceding half-year. A considerable amount had been expended on the improvement of the permanent way, to fit it for locomotive power. The directors recommended a dividend at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum for the half-year, leaving 128*l.* for the next account.

LONDON AND BLACKWALL.

THE half-yearly meeting of this company was held on Tuesday, August 29th, at the London Tavern, Captain Mangles in the chair. A dividend of 3*s.* 3*d.* per share for the half-year was agreed to.

The report of the directors stated that the receipts for the half-year ending the 30th of June last, with the balance of 122*l.* from the previous account, and the sum of 1,025*l.* excess of revenue set apart at various periods for income-tax, amount to 38,859*l.*; and the expenditure, inclusive of 2,366*l.* for government duty and parochial taxes, to 16,637*l.*, leaving a surplus profit of 22,222*l.* From this sum is deducted 2,700*l.* for interest on debentures, leaving 19,521*l.* for division among the shareholders. The directors recommend a dividend of 3*s.* 3*d.* per share, clear of the increased income-tax, leaving 93*9d.* to the credit of the current half-year. The increase in the receipts upon the corresponding half-year of 1853 amounts to 6,444*l.* or 20·60 per cent., against which there is an increase in the expenditure of 1,014*l.* or 6·49 per cent.; the working expenses of the railway, exclusive of taxation, being 35·11 per cent. of the receipt against 38·86 per cent. at the same period of last year. The increase in the number of passengers conveyed on the line was 465,459, and in the receipts 4,946*l.* The London, Tilbury, and Southend extension railway was opened to Gravesend on the 13th of April last. The present traffic is encouraging, and confirms the directors in their opinion, that when the line is opened throughout, and the traffic fully developed, it will prove a fruitful and permanent source of revenue to this company. A portion of the line to Southend, from Tilbury to Stanford-le-Hope, has recently been opened for traffic. The Eastern Counties Company have not as yet introduced any of their residential traffic on the line, although arrangements have been made for the reception of it at the Fenchurch-street terminus. The capital account to the 30th of June last shows, that 1,519,745*l.* had been received, and 1,536,749*l.* expended, leaving a balance of 17,004*l.*

LONDON AND NORTH WESTERN.

THE half-yearly meeting of this company was held on Friday, August 11th, at the Euston Station, the Marquis of Chandos in the chair. Resolutions were passed declaring a dividend of 2*l.* 10*s.* per 100*l.* stock, and so on in proportion on shares of a lower nominal amount.

From the half-yearly financial statement of the directors, it appears that the total amount of share capital authorised to be raised by the company is 25,521,881*l.*, of which 21,661,887*l.* have been received; 138,619*l.* is the amount of calls in course of payment, and 3,249,086*l.* the amount of calls which may be made. The capital account to the 30th June last shows that 21,661,887*l.* had been received on stock and shares; 85,713*l.* in advance of calls; 9,993,447*l.* on debentures; and 402,830*l.* on 3½ per cent. debenture stock; making the total receipts 32,143,878*l.* It is stated that interest and dividend on the whole of this sum are charged to revenue. The amount received during the past half-year was, on calls 344,402*l.*, on loan 614,284*l.*,

and on debenture stock 6,300*l.*; total 964,986*l.* The total amount expended during the half-year was 659,550*l.*, including 212,200*l.* on main line and works, 237,504*l.* on carrying stock, 22,374*l.* on lands and buildings yielding rent, and the remainder on lines in which the company have an interest. The total amount expended by the company is 31,422,063*l.*, leaving a balance at the bankers of 721,814*l.* The amount expended on the main line and works is 23,118,277*l.*, on carrying stock 2,642,232*l.*, on lands and buildings yielding rent 310,195*l.*, and on lines in which the company have an interest 5,351,358*l.* The loan and debenture account shows that the sum of 9,993,447*l.* has been raised to the 30th June, of which 1,164,542*l.* was borrowed at 5 per cent., 407,850*l.* at 4½ per cent., 1,262,605*l.* at 4½ per cent., 363,134*l.* at 4½ per cent., 2,739,600*l.* at 4 per cent., 1,435,560*l.* at 3½ per cent., 1,856,406*l.* at 3½ per cent., 545,450*l.* at 3½ per cent., and 218,300*l.* at 3 per cent. The mileage charge for working stock shows that on the 30th June, 1840, 602,999*l.* had been expended on rolling stock for working 233½ miles of railway, the average cost being 2,579*l.*; and that on the 30th June, 1854, 2,642,232*l.* had been expended on working stock for 903½ miles of railway, the average cost being 2,925*l.* per mile. The return of working stock shows that there are 679 locomotive engines, 677 tenders, 1 state carriage, 600 first-class mails and composite carriages, 571 second-class, and 409 third-class carriages; 26 travelling post-offices and tenders; 286 horse boxes; 253 carriage trucks; 238 guards, parcels, and break vans; 29 trucks, 10,903 goods waggons, 232 sheep vans, 26 trolleys, &c., 5,150 sheets, and 162 horses. A general statement shows that 3,230,032*l.* had been expended on capital account from the 1st January, 1850, to the 30th June, 1854 (including 1,572,900*l.* expended since the 30th June, 1853), being at the rate of 807,508*l.* per annum. The revenue account for the half-year ending the 30th June last shows that 1,409,128*l.* had been received, including 704,543*l.* for passengers, and 625,485*l.* for goods, coal, and live stock. The expenditure for working the traffic amounted to 619,114*l.*, of which 29,762*l.* was for rates and taxes, and 24,458*l.* for duty on passengers, leaving a balance of 790,004*l.* Out of this sum is deducted 197,858*l.* for interest on loans, 5,492*l.* chief rents, 3,000*l.* expenses of Peterborough joint station, 10,900*l.* for legal and parliamentary expenses, 4,017*l.* loss on Preston and Wyre, 11,999*l.* loss on Buckinghamshire, 16,055*l.* deficiency on Shropshire Union, 786*l.* deficiency on Manchester and Matlock lease, 1,679*l.* on Leeds and Liverpool Canal lease, and 9,509*l.* Stour Valley estimated dividend, also 21,887*l.* for renewal of rails, leaving 507,628*l.* To this sum is added 86,031*l.*, the balance from the last account, making the disposable sum for dividend 593,659*l.* From this sum is deducted 494,098*l.* for dividend, at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum, on the consolidated stock of 19,763,942*l.*, 10,512*l.* for 6s. dividend on the 20*l.* shares, 1,458*l.* for 6*d.* dividend on the 10*l.* shares, 10,915*l.* for the 1*s.* dividend on the 12*l.* 10*s.* shares, 28,727*l.* for dividend on the Huddersfield and Manchester and Leeds and Dewsbury stock, and 6,750*l.* on the Coventry and Nuneaton stock; together 552,461*l.*, leaving 41,197*l.* to be carried forward to the next account.

LONDON AND SOUTH-WESTERN.

THE half-yearly general meeting of this company was held on Thursday, August 10th, at 34, York-road, Lambeth, Mr. Chaplin, M.P., the chairman of the company, presided. The dividend declared was at the rate of 4½ per cent. per annum, subject to the income-tax.

The report states that the net revenue for the six months ending June 30th, 1854, amounts, after deducting interest on loans and other preferential charges, to 138,595*l.* To this is added, 5,403*l.* from the last account, making

the balance available for dividend 143,998*l.* From this sum the directors recommend that a dividend, payable on the 21st inst. for the half-year, at the rate of $4\frac{1}{4}$ per cent. per annum on 6,764,962*l.* be declared, amounting to 143,755*l.*, and leaving a balance of 243*l.* The gross revenue for the half-year just expired exceeds that of the corresponding half of 1853 by 34,009*l.*, of which 19,809*l.* arises from passenger traffic, 11,840*l.* from goods, and 2,360*l.* from rents and sundries. The increase in the miles run by the trains was 123,635, in the working expenses 18,296*l.*, in the taxation 2,381*l.*, and in the net revenue 13,331*l.* The increased receipt from the various sources is satisfactory; more particularly so considering the large receipt of the same period of 1853 over 1852. The working expenses have been heavier during the past half-year, caused by the higher rate of labour, and by the general advance in the prices of coke and all other materials in consumption by the company. The company's rolling stock is in excellent condition, and four new engines have been built during the past half-year, and paid for out of revenue. In consequence of the great and continued increase of the goods traffic, the directors lately ordered six powerful engines to be built expressly for that traffic. They have also ordered the necessary carrying stock to be built, adapted for the Necropolis Company's traffic, which will commence during the current half-year. With respect to the requirements on account of locomotive and carrying-stock, the directors state that at the close of the year 1849 it was considered that, if an additional sum of 50,000*l.* were added to the amount then invested in rolling stock, making a total of 570,160*l.*, that sum would be sufficient for the purposes of the company, and that any future requirements should be paid for out of revenue. At that time the annual receipts were only 530,876*l.* The traffic receipts in 1853 reached 689,243*l.*, being an increase of 158,367*l.*, and a further increase of 34,000*l.* has just occurred, making the total receipt for the year ending June, 1854, 720,892*l.* The increased expenditure on rolling stock since 1849 has been only 62,035*l.*, or an excess of 18,035*l.* over the 50,000*l.* estimated as sufficient for the smaller amount of traffic expected; and of this sum 20,000*l.* has been paid out of revenue. They state that it is manifestly unreasonable and exceedingly unjust to the present shareholders that these large sums required by the extension of the company's business should be charged against revenue, and the directors are prepared to recommend that, for the future, the outlays on this account should be charged to capital, until the rolling stock of the company is made adequate to the requirements of the traffic. The relaying of that portion of the main line between London and Kingston has been completed, and 7,497*l.*, being one-half the expense, has been charged in the present accounts against revenue, leaving the remainder to be charged in the ensuing half-year. The North Devon line from Crediton to Barnstaple was opened for traffic during last month. The amount of capital invested by the company in the North Devon and Exeter and Crediton lines is 160,587*l.*, which has hitherto been unproductive. The directors trust that the proprietors generally will unite with them in the opinion that the present condition of the company is of a most sound and satisfactory character, and that its prospects are encouraging, and in every way such as to inspire confidence in its well doing. The capital account shows that 8,856,484*l.* had been received, and 8,860,201*l.* expended, leaving a balance of 3,717*l.* against the company. The revenue account for the half-year ending the 30th of June shows that 347,601*l.* had been received, and 159,168*l.*, or 46.71 per cent. expended, including 21,124*l.* for government duty, rates, and taxes, leaving a balance of 188,433*l.* Out of this is deducted 50,089*l.* for preference charges, 1,623*l.* bad debt account, and 1,418*l.* deficiency in coal account, leaving 143,998*l.* for dividend.

LONDONDERRY AND ENNISKILLEN.

THE half-yearly meeting of this company was held on Saturday, September 30th, at the offices, Coleman-street-buildings, Mr. James Clay in the chair. A dividend of 5 per cent. per annum on the preference shares was agreed to.

The report stated that the bill for the creation of additional capital, and for other purposes, as approved at the special general meeting on the 6th June, 1854, has passed into law. The directors recommend that the additional capital should be issued in shares of 12*l.* 10*s.* each, entitled to a preference dividend of 5 per cent. per annum. Shares will be offered *pro rata* to the present proprietors. The amount, 5,605*l.* 4*s.*, at credit of profit and loss, is sufficient to pay the usual dividend of 5 per cent. per annum on the preference shares; which dividend the directors recommend. This will leave a balance of 105*l.* 0*s.* 4*d.*, to be carried over to the current half-year. The capital account showed receipts from all sources, to the 30th June, 1854, amounting to 571,750*l.*, and an expenditure of 573,368*l.* 19*s.* 6*d.*; and the revenue account gave as the receipts for the half-year 12,468*l.* 12*s.*, against an expenditure of 6,714*l.* 1*s.* 1*d.*, leaving a balance of 5,754*l.* 11*s.* 2*d.* The engineer's report, after accounting for the delay in completing the line, stated that "on comparing the statement of expenditure of the last half-year with the one ending Dec. 31st, 1853, there had been a decrease of more than 8 per cent. in the locomotive, and 15 per cent. in the coaching and goods departments, and this with an additional six miles of line open. The total decrease in these departments was 797*l.* 1*s.* 5*d.*, or about 37*l.* per week; and that, as compared also with the expenditure of the corresponding half-year of 1853, the last half-year shows a proportionate decrease in the locomotive department of 6 per cent., notwithstanding the increase of 37 per cent. in the length of the line. And the auditors reported that the amount recovered from the poor law guardians was 300*l.*, 211*l.* 9*s.* 11*d.* of which had been carried to the credit of rates and taxes accruing and paid during the half-year, and 85*l.* 18*s.* 3*d.* to the credit of compensation.

MALTON AND DRIFFIELD.

THE half-yearly meeting of this company was held at the former town on Saturday, August 26th, the Earl of Carlisle in the chair. There was no dividend declared.

The report of the directors stated that the amount received from the traffic from June 1st, 1853, when the line was opened, to the 30th of June last, had been 6,032*l.* 11*s.* 7*d.*, and that after paying the working expenses there remained a balance of 1,519*l.* 14*s.* 4*d.* This balance showed an increase of 50 per cent. over the first half-year. The receipts during the same period on the Thirsk and Malton branch had amounted to 7,054*l.* 6*s.* 4*d.*, leaving a balance of 2,416*l.* 5*s.* 9*d.* The proportion due to the Malton and Driffild Company on the above account was 1,208*l.* 2*s.* 10*d.*, which, with 1,519*l.* 14*s.* 4*d.* from the Malton and Driffild account, made a total of 2,727*l.* 17*s.* 2*d.* available for the payment of interest on the debentures and liabilities of the company. The first year's earnings certainly did not come up to that which the directors had hoped would have rewarded the public spirit of the shareholders of this line.

MIDLAND.

THE half-yearly meeting of this company was held at the Derby Station, on Friday, August 18th. Mr. Ellis, chairman of the company, presided on the occasion, when the following dividends, less income-tax were agreed to, of

1*l.* 15*s.* upon each 100*l.* consolidated stock, 1*l.* 1*s.* 3*d.* upon each 100*l.* consolidated Birmingham and Derby stock, 3*l.* upon each 100*l.* consolidated preferential stock, 1*l.* 10*s.* upon each Erewash Valley share, 3*s.* 5½*d.* upon each 16*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.* share, being half a year's interest upon 5*l.*, and 136 days' interest upon 3*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.*, at the rate of 4½ per cent. per annum.

The report stated that the total expenditure on capital account to the 30th of June last amounts to 18,685,299*l.*, of which 160,678*l.* was expended during the past half-year—namely, 306,936*l.* on the main line, 26,472*l.* on additional rolling stock, and the remainder on branch lines. The total receipts on capital account amounted to 18,758,254*l.*, and, after deducting the above expenditure, there remains a balance of 72,955*l.* The debenture account shows that 3,898,270*l.* had been raised on loans to the 30th of June, of which 203,680*l.* was borrowed at 5 per cent. per annum; 208,240*l.* at 4¾ per cent.; 811,507*l.* at 4½ per cent.; 147,220 at 4¼ per cent.; 829,482*l.* at 4 per cent.; 415,495*l.* at 3¾ per cent.; 1,222,926*l.* at 3½ per cent.; 42,220*l.* at 3¼ per cent.; and 17,500*l.* at 3 per cent. The renewal of permanent way account shows a balance against it of 47,290, and the rolling stock revenue account a balance against it of 37,660*l.* The stock of way materials on hand is valued at 49,592*l.* The cost of the rolling stock is 2,020,376*l.*, or at the rate of 3,501*l.* per mile on the 577 miles worked by the company. The revenue account for the half-year ending the 30th of June shows that the receipts amounted to 696,265*l.*, and the expenses to 340,527*l.*, including 21,133*l.* for rates and taxes and government duty, and 21,745*l.* for renewal of permanent way, provision for increase of rolling stock, and bad debts, leaving a balance of 355,738*l.* From this is deducted 80,780*l.* for interest on debentures and shares; 104,589*l.* for dividends on guaranteed stock and shares; 2,229*l.* deficiency on Manchester, Buxton, and Matlock Railway, and 500*l.* for redemption of mortgage debentures, leaving a balance of 167,638*l.*, which, added to 31,502*l.*, the balance brought from the preceding half-year, makes the disposable balance 199,140. Out of this it is proposed to pay a dividend at the rate of 3½ per cent. per annum on the consolidated stock, 9,129,859*l.*; at the rate of 4½ per cent. per annum on 669,456*l.*; at the rate of 2*l.* 2*s.* 6*d.* per cent. per annum on 978,533*l.* Birmingham and Derby stock; at the rate of 6 per cent. on 25,000*l.* Midland preferential stock; and at the rate of 6 per cent. on 145,000*l.* Erewash Valley stock, absorbing in the whole 188,708*l.*, and leaving a balance for the next account of 10,432*l.*

MIDDLESBOROUGH AND GUISBOROUGH.

THE half-yearly meeting of this company was held at Middlesborough, on Tuesday, August 22nd; Mr. Henry Pease in the chair.

The report stated that the line was opened for passenger traffic on the 25th of February last, and that it was now being doubled. The first guaranteed dividend, calculated from the 11th November last (the date of the opening for mineral traffic) to the 30th June, was paid on the 12th ult. The statement of accounts showed the receipts on capital account to be 74,078*l.*, and the payments 68,370*l.* The amount from passenger traffic was 332*l.*; goods 237*l.*; and minerals, 1,901*l.*, making a total of 2,551*l.*, up to 30th June, comprising a period of 4 months of passenger traffic and mineral traffic from November. The report was adopted.

NORFOLK.

THE half-yearly meeting of this company was held on Wednesday, August 30th, at the offices, 69, Lombard-street. Very few proprietors were present. Major Tyndale took the chair.

The Chairman said that the directors had not thought it right to issue any report, as the prosperity of the Norfolk Company was so bound up with the Eastern Counties Railway, that the report of the latter company was very much that of their own. The traffic of the last six months was very satisfactory, and the directors had come prepared to recommend the same rate of dividend as had been declared by the Eastern Counties Company. The directors were of opinion that, as the capital account was practically closed, it would be sufficient if a statement of the capital account, duly audited, were laid upon the table, instead of being printed, the revenue account being of course circulated among the proprietors as usual. The agreement with the Eastern Counties Railway Company had received the royal assent, as had a bill for the improvement of the harbour of Lowestoft. The directors recommended the declaration of a dividend at the rate of 17s. 6d. per cent. on the ordinary consolidated stock of the company. This would, it was true, leave a large balance; and the directors might divide more, but to declare a larger dividend would run the balance very close, and a little money might be found very useful. The directors had, therefore, come to the determination to recommend a dividend of 17s. 6d. per share. To this report, an amendment was moved, that the dividend be 14. per cent. for the half-year, which was agreed to.

NORTH AND SOUTH WESTERN JUNCTION.

THE half-yearly meeting of this company was held at the Euston Station, on Tuesday, August 15th; Mr. Henry Tootal in the chair, when a dividend of 2s. per share was declared.

The report stated that the tonnage of goods conveyed over the railway has increased so much, during the past half-year, as to have reached the amount guaranteed by the London and North Western and London and South Western Companies. There appears to have been conveyed, in the six months, 22,387 tons of coals, and 10,787 tons of general merchandise; it has not been necessary, therefore, to call upon the two companies in question to make good any deficiency in this respect. This description of traffic having, in so short a time, realised the guarantee, it may reasonably be expected to yield a steady increase of revenue. The net balance of 536*l.* 16*s.* 4*d.*, shown in the accounts, will admit of the payment of a dividend of 2s. per share for the half-year, and leave the sum 37*l.* 16*s.* 4*d.* to be carried to the credit of the current half-year. The act empowering the company to raise the additional capital required to clear off all outstanding liabilities, has received the royal assent. The amount of new share capital authorised is 15,000*l.*, being 1,500 shares of 10*l.* each, which the directors propose to offer to the existing shareholders, according to their present respective holdings. The proportion will be one of the new to four of the original shares. On capital account for the main line, the total receipts (including 16,500*l.* raised on debentures, a temporary loan of 2,600*l.* and 291*l.* 10*s.* 4*d.*, loans on account) have been 68,810*l.* 6*s.* 10*d.*, the whole of which has been expended. The receipts on account of the Hammersmith branch have been 1,222*l.* 16*s.* 8*d.*, leaving a balance in hand of 276*l.* 3*s.* 4*d.* The revenue account for the half-year ending 30th June last, gives the receipts at 1,515*l.* 3*s.* 1*d.*, and the expenditure 781*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.*, leaving a balance of 734*l.* 16*s.* 5*d.*, out of which has to be deducted 311*l.* 5*s.* interest on debenture debt, leaving, with a balance from the past half-year of 64*l.* 4*s.* 11*d.*, a sum of 536*l.* 16*s.* 4*d.* available for dividend.

NORTH BRITISH.

THE half-yearly general meeting of the shareholders in this company was held on Friday, September 22nd, in Edinburgh, Mr. Cheyne, W. S., in the absence of the chairman, was called upon to preside. There was no dividend declared.

The report states that the receipts for the half-year ending the 31st of July last, amounted to 114,946*l.*, being an increase of 18,574*l.* over those of the corresponding period of 1853, and the expenses to 65,058*l.*, being an increase of 13,479*l.* over the corresponding period, showing that the increase of net receipts amounted to only 5,095*l.* The extraordinary expenses, in addition to the above, are stated to be 3,561*l.*, and still further reduce the net receipts by that amount. The increase in the working expenses of the line has arisen almost entirely in the repairs which have been found necessary to rolling stock and in maintenance of way. 1,268*l.* have been expended in new rails for the line between Portobello and Edinburgh. The balance of revenue from the last half-year, amounting to 2,655*l.*, with 21,288*l.*, being the free balance of the present half-year, leaves 23,943*l.* available for dividends. The dividends on the 5 per cent. preference stocks amount to 19,675*l.*, and leave a balance of 4,268*l.* The arrears of dividend on the 6 per cent. stock, amounting to 2,742*l.*, being deducted from the balance, leaves only 1,526*l.* An arbitration is at present pending respecting the mail service already performed, which, if settled and paid for, might, with the above balance, have yielded a small dividend. The debts to bankers, amounting to 280,000*l.*, with all interest thereon, have been paid off. The bill authorising the construction of the Selkirk and Galashiels Railway received the royal assent on the 31st of July. It is proposed that the North British Company should work the line for ten years. The directors regret that their negotiations with the Peebles Railway Company for the working of that railway have been abortive. They offered to work the Peebles line at the actual cost, whatever that might be. The directors have appointed the Hon. E. G. Petre locomotive superintendent, and they fully anticipate greatly increased efficiency in that department. Out of the 450 goods waggons ordered, 295 have been supplied, and there remain 155 to be supplied. These additions to the stock will be a means of the further improvement of the revenue. The directors deeply regret that in spite of the very large increase of revenue, they are not in a position to recommend a dividend; but they do not hesitate to express their belief that in future the ordinary shareholders will participate in the progressive profits of the railway, and they trust that the *data* contained in their report will enable the proprietors at large to form a correct judgment of the value of their stock. The capital account to the 31st of July shows that 4,518,636*l.* had been received, and 4,411,467*l.* expended, leaving a balance of 97,015*l.* arrears of calls, and 10,153*l.* balance of bond on Halbeath Railway, to meet 35,638*l.* due to bonders and others. The revenue account for the half-year shows that 114,946*l.* had been received, and 65,058*l.* expended, leaving a balance, of which 25,039*l.* is absorbed by interest on loans and to bankers, and 3,561*l.* for extraordinary expenses, leaving a balance of 23,943*l.*, including 2,656*l.* brought from the former account, and disposed of as above. The loan account shows that 1,091,438*l.* has been borrowed, of which 295,601*l.* has been borrowed at 5 per cent., 242,570*l.* at 4½ per cent., and 259,003*l.* at 4 per cent.

NORTH EASTERN.

The first half-yearly meeting of this company, which now includes the York and North-Midland, the York, Newcastle, and Berwick, and the Leeds Northern, was held on Tuesday, August 29th, at York. Mr. Pullene occupied the chair, when the following dividends, less income-tax, were de-

clared upon the Berwick capital stock, at the rate of $3\frac{3}{4}$ per cent. per annum; upon the York capital stock at the rate of $2\frac{1}{4}$ per cent. per annum; upon the amount paid out of preference quarter shares and extension shares (1848) in the Leeds capital stock, at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum.

The report of the directors of this company (including the York, Newcastle, and Berwick, York and North Midland, and Leeds Northern Railway Companies, amalgamated in the last session under the above title) congratulates the proprietors on the successful result of their application to Parliament for power to amalgamate the three companies into one undertaking. The expenditure and liabilities of each of the three companies or classes of shareholders will continue to appear in their several capital accounts, and any money expended hereafter on capital account for the benefit of the joint concern will be charged against a joint capital account. The debentures, debts, and liabilities of the three companies become a charge upon the North Eastern Company, in whose name debentures will in future be issued, and out of whose general revenue the whole of the interest payable in respect of the debt will be defrayed. So much of this interest as belongs to the joint capital account will be charged to the general revenue account before the net savings are divided among the three classes of proprietors, and the remainder will be charged in the separate revenue account of each class, according to the excess of expenditure in each case beyond its amount of paid-up share capital. The division of the joint net traffic receipts has been settled as follows:—To the Berwick Railway Company 57·735 per cent. of the whole traffic for the year 1854; and 57·1 per cent. for 1855 and subsequent years; to the York Railway 33·265 per cent. for 1854, and 32·9 per cent. in 1855 and subsequent years; and to the Leeds Northern 9 per cent. in 1854, and 10 per cent. in 1855 and subsequent years. The Malton and Driffield undertaking is to be amalgamated on certain terms with the North Eastern Company within three months from the passing of the act. The general increase of traffic on the lines is very satisfactory, and amounts to $15\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. on the whole, as compared with the corresponding period of 1853. The working expenses, on the other hand, have increased about $25\frac{1}{4}$ per cent. The net revenue of the half-year is 370,250*l.*, being an increase of $9\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. over the corresponding period of last year. To this has to be added 11,420*l.*, the amount due from the Post-office for the conveyance of mails in 1853, making the total divisible revenue 381,671*l.* The directors propose that a dividend for the half-year should be declared on the ordinary stock and shares in the Berwick capital stock at the rate of $3\frac{3}{4}$ per cent. per annum, on the ordinary stock in the York capital stock at the rate of $2\frac{1}{4}$ per cent. per annum, and on the preference quarter-shares and extension shares. 1848 (Nos. 1, 2, and 3), in the Leeds capital stock at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum.

OXFORD, WORCESTER AND WOLVERHAMPTON.

THE half-yearly meeting was held on Tuesday, August 29th, at the London Tavern, Bishopsgate-street. Mr. J. Parson, took the chair, in the absence of Captain Rushout, M.P. The dividend declared was at the rate of 2 per cent. on the half-year.

The report stated that the revenue account shows a net profit of 34,414*l.*, which, after payment of 16,023*l.* interest on debentures, leaves a balance of 18,391*l.*; out of this amount the directors recommend a dividend at the rate of 4 per cent. per annum to be declared on the first preferential stock. The remainder they propose to set aside to meet the claims of the Great Western for the use of their line near Oxford, and other contingencies. Arrangements have been made for the early execution of works by Messrs. Peto and Betts, who have agreed to take the unissued preference shares at par value in payment, on con-

dition that this preference capital be made irredeemable until January, 1859. These arrangements will enable the directors not only to develop the traffic of the railway, but to comply with the provisions of the acts which make the execution of some of the works compulsory. The cost of these works, exclusive of land, will amount to about 225,000*l.*; more than one-half of which is for completing the second line of rails on the mixed gauge. These arrangements, with the shares issued to the public, will absorb 300,000*l.* out of the whole capital of 500,000*l.* of preference shares, leaving 200,000*l.* of the stock open to allotment among the proprietors. The engineer states in his report that the line between Tipton and Wolverhampton was opened on the 1st of July, and that the whole of the main line may be considered as open for traffic; and of the 93 miles completed on the narrow gauge 76 are double and only 17 single. The capital account to the 30th of June shows that 3,437,675*l.* had been received and 3,278,421*l.* expended, leaving a balance of 159,254*l.* The expenditure on capital account during the half-year amounted to 161,863*l.* The revenue account for the half-year ending the 30th of June showed that 72,510*l.* had been received and 38,096*l.* expended, leaving a balance of 34,414*l.*

SCOTTISH CENTRAL.

THE half-yearly general meeting of the shareholders of the Scottish Central Railway Company was held on Tuesday, September 19th, in the board room, at Perth; Mr. J. C. Dundas, chairman of the company, presiding. A dividend was declared at the rate of 4½ per cent. per annum on the consolidated stock of the company for the half-year, less 1*s.* income tax.

The report of the directors stated that the sum expended on capital account during the half-year amounted to 12,211*l.*, less 3,350*l.* for land sold to the Edinburgh, Perth, and Dundee Railway Company, leaving 8,861*l.* The directors recommend that the outlay to be incurred for the extension of locomotive workshops and new machinery shall not exceed what is absolutely necessary for the requirements of this company, taking into consideration the obligations incurred by them for working the Forth and Clyde Junction, and Crieff railways, when completed. The sum of 4,064*l.* has been expended on waggons to meet the rapid increase of traffic. The net amount of expenditure on the capital account to the 31st of July last was 1,615,856*l.* Of this sum 1,018,510*l.* had been raised on original stock, 152,518*l.* on preference stock, and 417,878*l.* on loans, together 1,588,907*l.*, leaving a balance against the company of 26,949*l.* The estimated expenditure for works and plant to be added to this amounts to 70,000*l.*, so that the total deficiency on capital account amounts to 96,948*l.* To meet this there remains 97,481*l.* to be raised on preference shares, 16,000*l.* on loans, and 1,490*l.* arrears of calls on original stock, making together 114,971*l.*, leaving a surplus, after providing for every contingency, of 18,022*l.* The directors estimate that they will be able to close the capital account at 1,685,856*l.*, or at an outlay of 70,000*l.* beyond the present expenditure. They state that the shareholders may rest assured that every effort will be made to reduce this estimate, and close the capital account below the figures stated. The estimate of the expenditure is made on a wide basis, in order to provide fully for all that is necessary to complete the line. The revenue account for the half-year shows an increase of 218*l.* in the passenger traffic, and 7,060*l.* in the goods traffic, together 7,278*l.*, over the corresponding period of 1853. The working expenses amount to 41½ per cent. of the receipts, being 2½ per cent. less than those at the corresponding period of 1853, which amounted to 44 per cent. That reduction was made notwithstanding the greatly increased cost of labour and material. The train miles

run during the half-year were 239,672, of which 148,143 were by goods trains, and 91,529 miles by passenger trains. The receipts per mile per goods train amounted to 4s. 5½*d.*, against 3s. 9½*d.* at the corresponding period of 1853; and for passenger trains to 6s. against 5s. 10¾*d.* per mile at the corresponding period of 1853. The increase in the receipts per train per mile is most satisfactory, and is to be attributed, in a great measure, to the general rise of rates, to which allusion was made in the last report. The balance from the last account amounted to 9,234*l.*, and the surplus profit on the half-year to 20,916*l.*, making a disposable sum of 30,150*l.* The directors recommend that a dividend at the rate of 4½ per cent. per annum on the consolidated stock should be declared, payable on the 29th of September, which will amount to 22,950*l.*, leaving a surplus to be carried forward of 7,200*l.* The dividend of 4s. 2*d.* per share on the preference stock will be paid at the same time. The net revenue for the year ending the 31st of July amounted to 44,455*l.*, and the dividend, at the rate of 4 per cent. in March last, and the proposed dividend of 4½ per cent. now, to 43,350*l.*, leaving a balance of 1,105*l.*; the dividend for the year averaging 4½ per cent. The directors regret the failure of the measure for amalgamating the Scottish Central and and Scottish Midland Railway Companies. A traffic arrangement has been concluded with the Edinburgh, Perth, and Dundee, Scottish Midland, and Dundee and Perth Railway Companies, for a period of seven years, under which the evils of competition are avoided. The capital account shows that 1,712,984*l.* had been expended, and 1,686,035*l.* received, leaving a balance against the company of 26,948*l.* The revenue account for the half-year shows that 59,085*l.* had been received and 24,593*l.* expended, leaving a balance of 34,492*l.* The cost of working the passenger trains is at the rate of 10·62*d.* per mile, and of goods trains 9·62*d.* per mile; the average number of carriages in a train being 6·69, and of waggons in goods trains 19·63.

SCOTTISH MIDLAND JUNCTION.

THE half-yearly meeting of this company was held on Friday, September 1st, the chairman of the company presiding, when a dividend at the rate of 2½ per cent., free of income-tax, was adopted.

The report states that the directors are again enabled to recommend an increase on the dividend at the rate of a quarter per cent. per annum. The increase in the receipts during the half-year ending 31st of July last, amounted to 1,435*l.* for passengers and mails, 849*l.* for goods, and 88*l.* for sundries—total 2,373*l.* over the receipts of the corresponding period of last year. The gross receipts for the past half-year amounted to 20,224*l.*, and the working expenses to 12,361*l.*, leaving 7,863*l.* To this sum is added 968*l.* from the last account—making 8,831*l.* Out of this sum the directors recommend that a dividend, free of income-tax, be paid at the rate of 2½ per cent. per annum, which will absorb 8,434*l.*, and leave 397*l.* In consequence of the opposition of the Edinburgh, Perth, and Dundee Railway Company, who insisted on the introduction of clauses adverse to the interests of this company, the bill to legalise the traffic agreement between this company and the Scottish Central Company was thrown out in committee. On a meeting of deputations of directors from both boards, it was resolved to recommend that the agreement should be terminated as at the 1st of July last, so that from that date each company retains its own traffic receipts, but the amicable relations of the two companies remain unchanged, and the directors trust will continue so. They are satisfied that, as circumstances now are, this company is not to suffer through receiving its own receipts, instead of their proportion of the joint receipts, as under the agreement. The sum of 491*l.* has been entered as this

company's proportion of the expenses of the bill. The directors regret to say that the Blairgowrie branch is not in such an advanced state, in consequence of rock being found in the cuttings, but there is every prospect of its being open for traffic early next year. The capital account to the 31st of July shows that 711,230*l.* had been received, and 698,500*l.* expended, leaving a balance of 2,361*l.* in arrears on calls, and 10,368*l.* at the bankers. The revenue account for the half-year ending the 31st of July showed that 22,224*l.* had been received, and 12,361*l.* expended, leaving a balance of 7,863*l.*, which, added to 4,096*l.* from the last account, makes the disposable sum 11,959*l.*

SHREWSBURY AND HEREFORD.

THE half-yearly meeting of this company was held at the Sun Hotel, Shrewsbury, on Wednesday, Aug. 16th, Mr. Ormsby Gore, M.P., in the chair, when a dividend at the rate of 3 per cent. per annum, free of income-tax, was adopted. The report stated that the directors have received from Mr. Brassey the rent reserved under the arrangement with him, for the half-year ending 30th June, 1854; which enables them to recommend that a dividend be now declared after the rate of 3 per cent. per annum on the whole paid-up capital of the company, free from income tax, and to be made payable on the 1st of September next. The dividends for the future years of Mr. Brassey's lease will, as the shareholders recollect, be at the rate of 4 per cent. per annum, up to the 1st of July, 1858; and after that at the rate of 4 per cent. per annum, with a moiety of surplus profits, during the last four years of the lease, ending 1st July, 1862. The directors regret that during the past half-year there has been a great deficiency in the supply of engine power, thereby causing delays and irregularities in the working of the passengers and goods trains, and the transmission of the mails (in respect of which a contract has been entered into with the Postmaster-General), and also preventing the full development of the traffic, particularly with reference to the forwarding of the large mineral traffic intended to pass from South Wales over the line of the Newport, Abergavenny, and Hereford and of this company. From the statement of accounts presented, it appeared that the gross amount of receipts on shares and borrowed money, together with calls received from the 31st of December, 1853, to the 30th of June, 1854, was 492,965*l.* and the expenditure 488,731*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.*; leaving a balance in the bankers' hands to the amount of 4,233*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.* The company have still a balance of capital in shares, and power to borrow to the amount of 107,035*l.*

SHROPSHIRE UNION.

THE half-yearly general meeting of the proprietors in this company was held on Thursday, Sept. 14th, at the Lion Hotel, Shrewsbury. The Earl of Powis, chairman of directors, presided, when a dividend of 2½ per cent. was declared. The directors' report said—a statement of the accounts of your company up to the 30th June, 1854, certified by Mr. Coleman, has been circulated among the proprietors in the same manner as previously to former general meetings. It will be seen therefrom that a satisfactory increase has occurred, both in the railway and canal traffic, during the six months ending June last. The dividend declared by the London and North Western Company in respect of the last half-year, has been at the rate of £5 per cent. per annum. The proprietors of this company, therefore, will be entitled to a dividend of half that amount in respect of the same period, which will be payable on the 19th inst. Your directors have the pleasure of reporting that the bill in Parliament for

reducing the capital and defining the undertaking of your company, which was sanctioned at the extraordinary general meeting, held on 20th June last, has, after considerable opposition, passed through Parliament, and received the royal assent on the 24th July. By this act the £20 shares of the company have been definitively reduced to £6 10s. each; and the obstacles which prevented the completion of the lease of your undertaking to the London and North Western Company have been removed. The statement of accounts showed the canal earnings for the half-year £64,607 11s. 5d., less £51,204 18s. 11d. for charges. The railway earnings amounted to £20,419 15s. 8d., less £16,472 2s. 1d. for charges. Net revenue on canal and railway accounts, £15,350 6s. 1d.

SOUTH DEVON.

THE half-yearly meeting of this company was held on Tuesday, August 22nd, at Plymouth, Mr. T. Woolcombe in the chair. The dividend declared was 5s. 6d. per share.

The report of the directors states that the disposable balance for the half-year amounts to 13,262*l.*, which it is proposed to appropriate in the following manner:—Fixed dividend on the half-shares, 5,070*l.*; fixed dividend on the new shares, 2,030*l.*; and a dividend of 5s. 6d. per share on the 50*l.* shares, 5,481*l.*, leaving a balance of 674*l.* The increase of passenger traffic over the number conveyed at the corresponding period of last year is 14·81 per cent., and in the receipts 7·41 per cent.; while that of the goods traffic is 21·82 per cent. on the tonnage, and 18·33 per cent. on the receipts. Notwithstanding the amount of expenditure which has hitherto attended the improvement of traffic, the directors are still of opinion that their continuing to afford the most liberal accommodation to the public will ever be found to be most consistent with the permanent interests of the company. The charges of maintenance and repairs have been recently much increased by the high prices of rails, materials and labour. The promoters of the South Devon and Tavistock Railway Company have succeeded in obtaining an act for the construction of a railway to Tavistock. The sanction of the shareholders will be required to the proposed subscription of 8,000*l.* to the South Devon and Tavistock Railway Company. The capital account showed that 2,086,860*l.* had been received, and 2,101,631*l.* expended, leaving a balance against the company of 14,703*l.* The revenue account for the half-year showed that 54,893*l.* had been received, and 31,948*l.* expended, leaving a balance of 22,944*l.* On looking at the statistics of the line for the last 3½ years, it was impossible to deny that they had certainly increased the accommodation to the public to a large extent, and that the public had availed themselves of that accommodation. The increase in the number of first-class passengers was from 35,000 to 48,000; in the second-class passengers, from 145,000 to 181,500; and in the third-class passengers, from 64,500 to 165,500. The increase in the receipts for first-class passengers was from 7,400*l.* to 9,500*l.*; for second-class passengers, from 15,000*l.* to 15,300*l.*; and in the third-class, from 6,000*l.* to 11,800*l.*

SOUTH EASTERN.

THE half-yearly meeting of the South Eastern Railway Company was held on Thursday, September 7th, at the Bridge-house Hotel, London Bridge; Sir John N. R. Campbell, chairman of the company, presided, when a dividend of 8s. 6d. per share upon the consolidated stock of the company was agreed to.

The report stated that the receipts for the half-year, ending the 31st of

July last, have been 430,911*l.*, and the working expenses, rents, and preference charges 326,979*l.*, leaving a balance of 112,214*l.* for dividend on the ordinary stock. The total increase in the passenger and goods traffic for the last half-year, as compared with the corresponding period of 1853, is 48,080*l.* of which 30,598*l.* was earned from passengers, and 17,482*l.* by goods. The net receipt of the steam-boats, after deducting 2,500*l.* for the renewal fund, are 9,284*l.* The balance of net revenue—viz., 112,214*l.*, is 11,974*l.* larger than that for the corresponding half-year of 1853. This will afford a dividend for the half-year ending July 31, of 8*s.* 6*d.* per 30*l.* stock, or at the rate of 2*l.* 16*s.* 8*d.* per cent. per annum, which, with the dividend of the preceding half-year of 12*s.* per 30*l.* share, or 4*l.* per annum, makes the dividend for the whole year equal to 3*l.* 8*s.* 4*d.* per cent. per annum. A balance of 6,904*l.* remains to be carried forward. The excess of expenditure in the various departments is accounted for generally by the increase in the cost of materials and labour. In the locomotive department it has arisen from an increase in the mileage of 35,021 miles, an increase in the price of coke from 18*s.* 11*d.* to 22*s.* 8*d.* per ton, amounting to 4,046*l.* including 971 additional tons of coke consumed, as compared with the corresponding period of last year. The total cost of locomotive power, including repairs and renewals was at the rate of 93*3*/₂*d.* per mile, as against 7*9*/₇*d.* per mile for the half-year ending July, 1853. The amount expended for the maintenance of way, works, and stations is 26,945*l.*, being 7,889*l.* more than in the same period of 1853. The renewals have cost 17,619*l.*, being 2,177*l.* less than in 1852; and the total expended under the head of renewals has been charged as usual against the reserve fund. This fund, notwithstanding the addition of 6,233*l.* from revenue during the half-year, has been overdrawn to the extent of 6,080*l.* during the same period. The amount heretofore laid by for renewals, at the rate of 46*l.* per mile per annum, is inadequate for the purpose. It must either be increased, or the fund must be abolished. The directors regret that they cannot agree with the auditors as to the importance of maintaining the reserve fund; on the contrary, they consider that the revenue of each half-year should, in future, be charged with the full amount of all renewals, leaving it to the engineer to equalize, as far as practicable, the expenditure under this head, which will, it is believed, effect the same result as a reserve fund. To prevent, however, any undue pressure upon the current half-year, should this recommendation be adopted, it is proposed to appropriate the balance of 6,904*l.* to liquidate the 6,080*l.* overdrawn on account of the reserve fund, and thus to make the revenue bear its full charge for renewals. A table in the report shows that 1,470,353 miles were run by the trains during the half-year; that 332,051*l.* was received for passengers, 90,982*l.* for goods, and 7,877*l.* for sundries—total receipts, 430,911*l.* The working expenses amounted to 183,423*l.*, the taxation to 31,998*l.*, and the net revenue to 215,490*l.*; showing an increase, as compared with the corresponding half-year of 1853, in the mileage, of 35,021 miles; in the passenger receipts, of 30,599*l.*; in the goods, of 17,482*l.*; and in the total receipts, of 47,985*l.*; an increase in the working expenses of 30,857*l.*, in the taxation of 6,242*l.*, and in the net revenue of 10,886*l.* The report states that the company's steam-ships have performed their voyages with the accustomed regularity. During the half-year 31,956 passengers have passed *via* Folkestone and Boulogne, and 12,132 *via* Dover and Calais, making an increase of 5,613 passengers over the same period of 1853. The tidal service to Paris daily, *via* Folkestone, is in full operation; and an agreement has been concluded with the Northern of France Railway to continue the fixed service to Paris daily, *via* Dover and Calais, for a period of three years, the South Eastern Railway receiving from them a daily subvention for performing the steam-boat service. The directors feel that their duty is to state frankly and fully to the shareholders the condition in which they found the company's affairs in March

last, when the board was reconstructed, the policy they have adopted, and the measures they have taken to fulfil, so far as time has yet permitted, the expectations which were indicated by the changes then made by the proprietary. After the declaration of a dividend at the last half-yearly meeting by the board as formerly constituted, the first task the present directors had to encounter was to raise funds wherewith to pay it, the amount earned having been absorbed, and no provision whatever made to replace it. In March, the embarrassment which the reconstructed board inherited was moreover aggravated by the rapidly approaching maturity of other very large liabilities, for which no provision had been made. The borrowing powers of the company, reaching to 2,465,375*l.*, had been used to within 17,850*l.* of that amount, and capital account was overdrawn by the sum of 192,578*l.* The task of providing funds was not therefore light or easy; it was however accomplished, mainly through the liberality of the company's bankers, in time to meet the payment of the dividend on the day fixed, and to discharge the other liabilities as they fell due. A number of the bridges on the line, especially those constructed of timber, require considerable repairs, or to be more substantially built; and some of the stations, having been only temporary erections, should be rebuilt of more durable materials. Of the 500,000*l.* authorised to be raised by the act of 1853, the sum of 200,000*l.* was appropriated to the purchase of the Canterbury and Whitstable Railway and to the purchase of the steam-boats. Of the remaining sum of 300,000*l.*, 192,401*l.* was expended for engineering works, rolling stock, and sundries, included in the estimates of June, 1853, and 40,082*l.* for sundry works in excess of the estimates, making 232,483*l.*, and the balance has been appropriated towards reducing the excess of expenditure on capital account. The amount of 251,669*l.*, estimated as the value of surplus lands, is only calculated to realize, in addition to 20,501*l.* already received, a further sum of about 100,000*l.*, inasmuch as the directors are of opinion that certain portions of land valued at about 118,000*l.*, and which were included in the property available for sale, should be retained; so that in effect provision must now be made for the deficiency arising from the sale of surplus lands as well as for works and rolling stock already estimated, but for which there is no available fund. The requirements of the company for works ordered within twelve months, including the sum of 163,627*l.* overdrawn on capital account on the 31st of July last, amount to 281,250*l.*; for works to extend over a period of three years, from July 31st, 1854, to 170,416*l.*; and for works to be completed within five years, to 111,000*l.*, for rebuilding and improvement of stations; 17,160*l.* for four new engines and replacing old engines; and 110,833*l.* for additional carriages and trucks—total 590,659*l.*, less surplus lands estimated at 100,000*l.*, leaving 490,659*l.* In order, therefore, to put the finances of the company upon a permanently solid basis, to complete the various works which are now and will shortly be required, and to provide the necessary plant for the extension of the company's business, the directors propose, with the sanction of the proprietors, to apply to Parliament in the next session for power to raise an amount not exceeding 500,000*l.*, in such a manner as shall appear to them least burdensome to the revenue of the company. In conclusion the report states:—"The directors will be no parties to a reckless expenditure of your money in parliamentary contests. Large sums have already been lavished in promoting losing branches and lines, entailing a heavy annual reduction of your dividends, and your parliamentary and law expenses for nine years, from 1845 to 1853, amounted to 479,711*l.* 7*s.* 11*d.*, averaging the enormous sum of 53,301*l.* 5*s.* 3*d.* per annum, exclusive of the costs of conveyance of land, which are merged in the land accounts. The directors are of opinion that a stop must be put to this system, if your dividends are to be increased, or even maintained. The report of Messrs. J. Morgan, T. Browne, and C. Whetham, the auditors, recommends that 10,000*l.*,

or thereabout, half-yearly, should be set aside out of revenue for the renewal of the permanent way and works, and that 5,000*l.* each half-year, instead of 2,500*l.*, should be set aside out of revenue to provide a fund for the insurance and renewal of the steam-ships belonging to the company. The majority of the auditors are of opinion that the parliamentary expenses in reference to the Lewisham and Bromley lines, amounting to 8,163*l.*, should be at once disposed of, by being placed to the debit of the profit and loss account, instead of being spread over three half-years, including the last half-year, as proposed by the board." The capital account shows that 125,811*l.* had been expended for the half-year ending the 31st of July, making the total expenditure up to that date 11,029,803*l.*, being in excess of the receipts to the amount of 163,627*l.* The debenture account shows that 755,060*l.* had been borrowed at 5 per cent., 92,550*l.* at 4½ per cent., 542,500*l.* at 4½ per cent., 258,630 at 4½ per cent., 560,673*l.* at 4 per cent., 53,500*l.* at 3½ per cent., 191,100*l.* at 3½ per cent., and 9,500*l.* at 3 per cent.; total, 2,463,531*l.* The consolidated stock of the company amounts to 7,433,700*l.*, the 4½ per cent. guaranteed stock to 481,300*l.*, and the fixed 4½ per cent. shares to 250,000*l.*; total, 8,165,000*l.*

SOUTH STAFFORDSHIRE.

THE half-yearly meeting of this company was held at Lichfield, on Friday, August 25th, Mr. Chawner in the chair, when a dividend at the rate of 4 per cent. per annum was agreed to.

The report stated that the expenditure for the last half-year has been 22,720*l.*, chiefly for stations and sidings, and for waggons required for increased traffic. The renewed application to Parliament, for making the Cannock and Norton branches, had been successful. The directors resolved to proceed forthwith to carry out the powers entrusted to the company in parliament. A dividend at the rate of 4 per cent. per annum would be payable on the 1st of September, being, after deducting the income-tax, equivalent to 3*s.* 7*d.* per share, or 18*l.* 1*s.* 6*d.* per 100 shares. From the statement of accounts it appeared that the total expenditure of the company, up to the 31st of July, 1854, had been 1,012,460*l.*, and that there was a balance of 46,945*l.*

STAINES, WOKINGHAM, AND WOKING.

THE third half-yearly general meeting of the proprietors in this undertaking, was held on Thursday, August 24th, at the London Tavern, Bishopsgate-street, for the purpose of receiving the report, and on other business; Mr. Garrad, chairman of the board, in the chair. There was no dividend declared.

The statement of accounts showed the previous balance, 1,420*l.* 17*s.* 1*d.*; cash received since last account, 25,903*l.* 3*s.* 6*d.*; whilst on the creditor side there appeared, for land and compensation, 12,038*l.* 2*s.* 6*d.*; to contractor, 10,419*l.* 16*s.* 1*d.*; engineering, 1,578*l.* 17*s.* 9*d.*; law expenses, 1,134*l.* 3*s.*; one year's allowance to directors, 500*l.*; and other items, concluding with a balance in hand of 1,137*l.* 1*s.* 3*d.*, amounting in the total to 27,324*l.* 0*s.* 7*d.*

TAFF VALE.

THE half-yearly meeting of this company was held at the White Lion, Bristol, on Thursday, August 17th, Mr. James Poole, jun., in the chair, when a dividend at the rate of 7½ per cent. per annum on the stock of the company, for

the half-year, payable on the 6th of September next, with a dividend in the same proportion on the preference stock, No. 1, and on the amount called up on the 10*l.* shares was declared.

The report stated that from the revenue account, to the 30th June last, it appeared that the receipts amounted to 83,055*l.* 16*s.* 1*d.*, and the expenditure to 60,156*l.* 19*s.* 4*d.*, leaving a balance (with 2,401*l.* 11*s.* 11*d.* from last half-yearly account), of 22,898*l.* 16*s.* 9*d.*

WATERFORD AND LIMERICK.

THE half-yearly meeting of this company was held at Waterford on Wednesday, Aug. 30. The chair was taken by Mr. Henry William Massy, vice-chairman of the company.

The following report of the present position and future prospects of the company, was adopted *nem. con.*:—"The period has at last arrived when the directors can report that your line of railway is completed from Limerick to its terminus in Waterford. The opening for public traffic now only awaits the approval of the works by the Government inspector, and the completion of some terminal arrangements, which are being made with as little outlay as possible, but at the same time with every sufficient convenience for the increase goods and passenger traffic which may confidently be expected. The receipts during the half-year amounted to 19,276*l.*, and the working expenditure to 11,249*l.*, leaving a balance of 8,027*l.*; from this is deducted interest paid on loans and bonds 4,015*l.*, leaving 4,012*l.* Before the completion of the line gave security for the future, the directors would have recommended the retention of the balance of 4,012*l.* From time to time a sum of 51,115*l.*, less 24,841*l.*, paid as interest, has accrued from profits of working, and has been lent to capital account. With the fair start now before them, and the strong probability that no future falling off can take place, the directors recommend that a sum of 2,688*l.* be taken from the accumulated revenue as above, and, being added to the net balance of the half-year just ended of 4,015*l.*, that a dividend may be made as follows:—Preference dividend, at 5 per cent. on 170,000*l.*, 4,250*l.*; dividend at the rate of 1 per cent. on ordinary shares, 2,450*l.* In paying a preference dividend the directors recommend what, after all, is probably only paying off a legal liability; but at the same time the directors cannot bring themselves to recommend a denial to the ordinary shareholders of a commencement of a division which, though small at present, will, they have no doubt, continue, and year by year exhibit a steady increase."

WATERFORD AND TRAMORE.

THE half-yearly meeting of this company was held on Saturday, September 30, at Dublin; Sir J. Dombraim in the chair. There was no dividend announced.

The report stated that the line was opened for traffic on the 5th of September last year, and, although it had the whole of a severe winter to contend with, the traffic to the 30th June had more than paid its working expenses. The first summer season was most satisfactory, averaging from the 1st of July to the 16th of September, receipts to the amount of 28*l.* per mile per week. The receipts for the half-year ending the 30th of June amounted to 1,234*l.* on revenue account; and the expenditure to 762*l.* for working expenses, and to 254*l.* for interest on loans, leaving a balance of 216*l.* The receipts on capital account amounted to 56,343*l.*, and the expenses to 55,566*l.*, leaving a balance of 757*l.*

WEST HARTLEPOOL.

THE annual general meeting of the shareholders of this company was held at their offices in West Hartlepool, on Tuesday, the 19th of September. Mr. Ralph Ward Jackson, the chairman of the company, occupied the chair. A dividend of 4*l.* per cent. was declared.

The directors' report stated the gross revenue for the past year to be 120,275*l.* 14*s.* 8*d.*, being an increase of 17,862*l.* 17*s.* over the revenue for the preceding year, and that the working expenses for the past year had only been 3 per cent. increase on the preceding year, notwithstanding the advance on the cost of materials and labour. After discharging interest on debenture debts and fixed charges upon the year's revenue, a balance remained of 39,789*l.* 5*s.* 5*d.*, which satisfied all preferential claims, and was adequate to a dividend of 4*l.* per cent. upon the consolidated stock of the company, besides leaving a sum of 1,003*l.* 2*s.* 11*d.* to the credit of next year's accounts. The capital accounts showed that, of the 1,994,666*l.* parliamentary capital authorised to be raised on stocks and loans, and of which 1,305,705*l.* 16*s.* 6*d.* had been expended to 30th June, 1853, 1,465,073*l.* had been expended to 30th June, 1854, leaving a balance of parliamentary available capital not yet realised, of 529,593*l.* In addition to these resources, the report states the company to possess assets of upwards of 150,000*l.*, capable of being realised from surplus lands, buildings, &c. The increase of shipping entered in the docks was from 1,020, in the year ending June, 1848, to 3,737 in 1851, and 4,814 in 1854; whilst the foreign merchandise traffic, only commencing with the month of June, 1852, was, in the year ending June, 1853—cargoes entered inwards, 74; outwards, 892; and, in the present year—inwards, 240; outwards, 1,041. The report alluded to the North Yorkshire and Cleveland Railway, by which it was hoped that the West Hartlepool line would participate in the traffic to be derived from the immense field of ironstone in the Cleveland hills; and also to the third dock now being made by the company, which, together with another graving dock and foreign timber yards, the directors expect to see completed in the summer of 1855.

WHITEHAVEN JUNCTION.

THE half-yearly meeting of this company was held on Tuesday, Aug. 15th, at Whitehaven, the Earl of Lonsdale in the chair, when resolutions were passed declaring a dividend of 8*s.* per share.

The report stated that the gross traffic receipts amounted to 7,983*l.*, and the expenditure to 3,809*l.* The balance on the profit and loss account was 2,339*l.*, and the directors were enabled to recommend a dividend of 8*s.* per share, to transfer 200*l.* to the reserve fund, and to carry a balance of 139*l.* to the credit of the next account. The receipts, as compared with the corresponding period in 1853, showed an increase of 1,436*l.* There was an increase of 480*l.* on the expenditure, arising principally in the locomotive charges. The joint working of the traffic with the Whitehaven and Furness Railway had worked satisfactorily, and had enabled the Whitehaven Company to carry on a much larger traffic than they would otherwise have been able to do. The amount now expended on the capital account was 5,196*l.* in excess of the capital raised. Under the acts obtained last session the company had power to raise 12,000*l.* by shares, and 4,000*l.* by loans. The present liabilities on capital account were 9,859*l.*, to meet which it was proposed to create additional share capital to the extent of 10,000*l.*

Notes of the Month.

FINANCIAL AND COMMERCIAL.

ARREST OF A BANKER.—The Newcastle, Shields and Sunderland Union Banking Company stopped payment a few years ago under heavy liabilities, which are in course of liquidation under the Winding-up Act. The managing director was Mr. William Chapman, who for many years enjoyed a high reputation as a religious person and a warm promoter of charitable institutions; but such was the odium excited by his alleged gross mismanagement of the affairs of the bank, that he left Newcastle on the instant of the failure, and took up his residence in some part of Italy, thus evading all payment of calls due on the numerous shares which he held in the company. A few days ago the official managers heard of his return to this country, and, after making due inquiries, they succeeded in having him arrested at Lynn in Norfolk, while attending a wedding. He is now under restraint, awaiting proceedings to be taken against him.

STAMPS ON DIVIDEND WARRANTS.—According to an intimation from the Stamp Office, all dividend warrants issued by public companies and requiring the signatures of the parties to whom they are payable must bear the penny receipt stamp. If issued payable at a future date, they will become liable to stamps, as if they were bills of exchange; and this practice, which has prevailed in some instances, must therefore be discontinued.

PORTUGUESE GOLD CURRENCY.—In connexion with the movement of the precious metals, it is a point of some importance that the Portuguese Government is about to introduce a gold currency into that kingdom upon an extensive scale. In consequence of this resolution, considerable quantities of silver are finding their way from Portugal to England in exchange for sovereigns.

AUSTRALIAN BANKING.—In a late communication from England, it was stated that a number of the newly established colonial banks were viewed in London with increasing disfavour, and the stocks of some of them are reported as at a discount. Now it is quite true that one or more of the projected banks have not succeeded in establishing themselves. In reference, however, to others which have not been long established, or which have not published returns, we are unable to speak as to their degree of success; but we have the returns of the latest established English banks now before us, and we think that they tell a very different and instructive tale of success attendant upon good management and a diligent adaptation to the natural requirements of the colony. Our readers are aware that we have always expressed our preference for having our banking business performed by local banks; but, as this is a luxury to which we cannot at present attain, the least we can do is to treat with impartiality and courtesy the foreign establishments existing among us. The following are the statements of the London Chartered Bank, the only recently established institution which has published more than one return, and from these duly authenticated reports British capitalists will be able to draw their own conclusions as to the possibility of profitable investment in Australian undertakings:—

LONDON CHARTERED BANK.

	3rd Quarter. 1853.	4th Quarter. 1853.	1st Quarter. 1854.
Circulation (notes)	29,825	89,641	117,235
Deposits	45,476	133,200	185,468
Total liabilities	75,373	223,790	303,179
Capital stock	375,000	375,000	375,000
Specie	125,059	100,671	198,974
Debts and discounts	49,802	302,523	403,276
Total assets	174,933	403,418	602,251

Melbourne Argus, July 21st.

DAYS FOR ALLOWANCE AT THE STAMP-OFFICE.—The Stamp-office have given notice that allowances for stamps rendered obsolete by the new act, which came into operation on Wednesday, the 11th October, will be made on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays, from the 12th of October to the 4th of April next inclusive.

GOLD MINING COMPANIES.—No great progress has at present been made in winding up the affairs of the gold mining and other projects started during the Australian mania, and which have since become defunct through the mismanagement of directors or general abortiveness of the adventures. The scrip-holders of the Melbourne Gold and General Mining, and the Lake Bathurst Gold Mining Companies have obtained verdicts against their directors for a return of deposits, but in both cases bills of exception have been tendered to the judges ruling. The New South Wales Gold Company is to be dissolved, the sale and transfer of the estates having been arranged. When the assets shall have been realised they will be proportionately distributed. A committee of investigation into the management of the Chartered Australian Mining, Refining, and Importing Company have recommended that the undertaking be abandoned. Great complaints are made respecting the formation of the scheme, 60,000 free shares being paid for an estate worth about £5,000, and it having been brought into operation with only 12,000 shares paid up. The organisation of the New South Wales and Inter-colonial Steam Company will be fully investigated previously to the remaining assets being distributed. Several of the Californian gold enterprises are in a similar situation, and it is questioned whether any of them will succeed.

CHARTERED BANK OF INDIA, AUSTRALIA AND CHINA.—The Chartered Bank of India, Australia and China, with respect to which the question was lately agitated as to the power of the directors to enforce calls, have issued dividend warrants at the rate of 5 per cent. upon the amount of the call made in March last, and to which only about a third of the shareholders responded. These warrants are to be signed in the presence of a witness, and against the word "Proprietor;" and, as this mode is an uncommon one, a correspondent suggests that its scope may be equivalent to that of signing the deed, and thus give the directors in those instances where it is complied with the power, in case of any non-payment of future calls, of forfeiting the shares. The directors are too respectable for any suspicion to be entertained of a stratagem on their part, but it may nevertheless be well for each proprietor to whom these forms have been sent, but who may wish still to exercise some reserve, to ascertain before signing them the extent of their legal bearing.

NEW YORK USURY LAWS.—The New York Chamber of Commerce have adopted a report against the usury laws in that State. At present a lender who receives more than 7 per cent. forfeits the whole sum lent, and is liable to a fine of 1,000 dols. and six months' imprisonment. In 22 of the other States of the Union the usury laws have been so modified as merely to forfeit interest, and the Chamber point to the beneficial results in those cases, and urge that New York should now not only abandon the severe restrictions by which she is unfavourably distinguished, but should take the lead in adopting on this subject a system of entire freedom. A minority of the Chamber wished to recommend that the present restrictions should be preserved with respect to all bonds and mortgages taken by banks, and expressed an opinion that, owing to the force of prejudice, there would be no more hope of getting such a bill passed as that proposed by their colleagues than there would be in attempting to make a new world.

BANK MOVEMENTS.

A special meeting of the proprietors of the Bank of New South Wales was held on the 18th July. The directors submitted a report, in which they recommended the increase of the capital to £500,000, by the issue of 500 shares of £20 each, the necessary sanction to which has recently been received from the Home Government,

to whom the Local Government had referred it. The shares to be paid up on the 30th of September next, being the close of the financial half-year of the bank. They also declared that the business of the bank was such as to warrant them in declaring a bonus of £75,000 out of the profits of the current half-year towards such increase, leaving only £25,000 to be paid by the proprietary. The meeting having adopted the report, passed a vote of thanks to the directors for the successful management of the business of the bank.

The Western Australian Bank, at its half-yearly meeting, has declared a dividend at the rate of $12\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. per annum.

The Northumberland and Durham District Banking Company have opened a branch at Wooler, in connection with their branch at Berwick-on-Tweed, for the convenience of the bank's customers in that locality upon market days and fair days. Wooler is stated to be one of the English border towns to which the agents of Scotch banks are in the habit of resorting periodically, chiefly with the view to obtain deposits.

Monetary Intelligence.

REVIEW OF THE MONEY MARKET FOR THE MONTH OF OCTOBER, 1854.

SEVERAL CAUSES have tended to create anxiety as to the progress of financial affairs during the month just concluding. Although the intelligence of the glorious success of the allied forces in the Crimea, together with the preparations for a effective attack upon Sebastopol, were confirmed at an early date, the absence of activity in trade and an increased tightness in the money market produced general uneasiness. The state of credit, which received a severe shock when the Manchester failures were announced, had not recovered from its depression before it was again doomed to be reshaken by the suspensions in Liverpool and London. For a short period great apprehensions were entertained that another panic was about to take place; but although some difficulties ensued in Ireland, through connections with these firms, the blow has at present been confined to the particular channels through which they operated. Since this encouraging fact has been ascertained, greater confidence has been manifested in all departments, and the impression appears to be general that the worst has passed. While uncertainty with respect to the future lasted, there was great pressure for accommodation, which was further augmented by payments of instalments falling due on Exchequer bonds and Turkish scrip. These demands having been satisfied, and alarm in connection with failures having in the meanwhile subsided, there has latterly been greater ease in the money market, although a good inquiry is still maintained. A prominent feature for notice, in relation to the ordinary current of events, is the remarkable rebound in the grain trade, which, if it has not taken every one by surprise, has at least gone to a more alarming extent than was originally anticipated. The Greek merchants receive the credit of having foreseen the reaction, and arranged their operations accordingly; and if this be correct, they will have secured enormous profits.

Reports have been circulated of loans in contemplation for France, Piedmont, and other of the European States; but probable as it is that such contracts will ultimately be proposed for negotiation, it is not likely that they will be immediately brought forward. In the case of France, should

one be announced, the system of open tender, from the success attending the last transaction, will, it is thought, be adopted, which would prevent any large abstraction of capital from this market. The arrivals of specie from Australia and America have been considerable since the close of September; but the payment of the dividends, and the drain to the Continent, have absorbed by far the larger proportion of these remittances. There is, however, only a limited quantity now going to Paris, and shipments of silver to the East have entirely ceased. Under these circumstances, a prospect exists of the bank accounts, which have been unsatisfactory, righting themselves at last, and the latest returns show an increase of some £510,000 in the stock of bullion. The rate of discount in Lombard-street, in the beginning of October, was $5\frac{1}{4}$ to $5\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., but it has diminished to $4\frac{1}{2}$ to 5, which is about the current quotation. The bill brokers give 4 per cent. for deposits, and they have within the last week been fully supplied. At the Stock Exchange there has been a more sensible decline in the terms for accommodation. Previously to the efflux of the dividends, $4\frac{1}{2}$ and 5 per cent. was required, even among the leading dealers; but the rates at the latest moment, range from $1\frac{1}{2}$ to $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., allowing for the position of the borrower.

The fluctuations in public securities of all kinds have been most limited. When the announcement of the result of the battle of the Alma took place, there was a partial rise in Consols; but sales subsequently effected, through the unfavourable influence of the provincial failures, caused a decline, which has not since been wholly recovered. The extent of variation has been about $1\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., but speculation has not received the least encouragement. Foreign stocks and railway shares have been much in the same position. From the highest quotations of the month there has been a decline, but only of an ordinary description, the transactions being greatly restricted. Bank shares have not materially varied. Those of the Crystal Palace are rather firmer, without however an important increase of business.

In produce generally there has been greater activity. The indigo sales have concluded at higher rates, and those of wool are proceeding satisfactorily. Tea has been favourably affected by the news from China.

ENGLISH FUNDS.

			Price on September 29.	Highest.	Lowest.	Price on October 27
Consols	..	..	$95\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{1}{4}$	$95\frac{1}{2}$	$94\frac{1}{2}$	$94\frac{1}{2}$
Exchequer bills' average ..	..	..	8s. to 5s. pm.	9s. pm.	4s. pm.	6 to 9 pm.

FOREIGN STOCKS.

Brazilian	..	..	$101\frac{1}{2}$	$101\frac{1}{2}$	98 ex. div.	$99\frac{1}{2}$
Buenos Ayres	..	..	—	$54\frac{1}{2}$ ex. div.	53 ex. div.	53
Chilian	..	..	—	104	101 ex. div.	101
Dutch	..	..	62	$62\frac{1}{2}$	$60\frac{1}{2}$	61
Mexican	..	..	$24\frac{1}{2}$	$25\frac{1}{2}$	23 ex. div.	23
Peruvian, $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. ..	..	..	$70\frac{1}{2}$	73	70	71
Portuguese, 4 per cent. ..	..	..	—	42	41	41
Russian	..	..	—	96	95	95
Spanish	..	..	—	$38\frac{1}{2}$	$37\frac{1}{2}$	$37\frac{1}{2}$

RAILWAY SHARES.

Brighton	..	..	$103\frac{1}{2}$	$104\frac{1}{2}$	$102\frac{1}{2}$	$103\frac{1}{2}$
Caledonian	..	..	$64\frac{1}{2}$	65	$58\frac{1}{2}$	$58\frac{1}{2}$
Eastern Counties	..	..	$11\frac{1}{2}$	12	$11\frac{1}{2}$	$11\frac{1}{2}$
Great Northern	..	..	$87\frac{1}{2}$	$90\frac{1}{2}$	$86\frac{1}{2}$	90
Great Western	..	..	72	$72\frac{1}{2}$	$70\frac{1}{2}$	$70\frac{1}{2}$
London and North Western	..	..	$101\frac{1}{2}$	$102\frac{1}{2}$	$100\frac{1}{2}$	$100\frac{1}{2}$
Midland	..	..	$69\frac{1}{2}$	$71\frac{1}{2}$	$68\frac{1}{2}$	$68\frac{1}{2}$

	Price on Sept. 29.	Highest.	Lowest.	Price on Oct. 27.
Lancashire and Yorkshire ..	70½	72½	70	71½
North Staffordshire ..	13½	13½	13½	13½
South Eastern	63½	65	61½	61½
South Western	82½	84	81	81½
York, Newcastle and Berwick	78	79	75½	76
York and North Midland ..	54½	55½	53	53½
Northern of France ..	34½	35½	34½	35½
East Indian	23	23½	23	23½

STATE OF TRADE.

BUSINESS in the manufacturing districts has been checked by the uncertain position of credit, and the several failures which have occurred. Prices of the principal goods have exhibited a tendency to decline, and the principal firms complain of the diminution of orders both from Australia and America, owing to a general curtailment of business.

THE GRAIN TRADE.

THE absence of rain till within the close of the month has created apprehensions relative to the progress of agricultural operations. Although we have yet had no prolongation of wet weather, the little that has fallen has been of benefit. In the meantime, the great reduction in the stocks of grain, and the small supplies received at market, either from home or abroad, has produced great excitement in the trade, and the quotations for wheat have advanced from 12s. to 16s. per quarter, bringing them to about those which ruled previously to the depression occasioned by the announcement of an abundant harvest. The reaction, which was progressive at first, has suddenly assumed a character considered to be influenced by speculation; but this is denied, and to the latest moment almost the extreme advance has been maintained. The present high rates will naturally attract increased shipments; but no severe fall is immediately apprehended.

THE *Gazette* returns for England and Wales have been—

Week ended 1854.	Wheat. Qrs. sold.	Weekly Average. s. d.	Six Weeks' Average. s. d.	Duty. s. d.	Corresponding Six Weeks Last Year. s. d.
Sept. 23.....	85,984 ..	53 2 ..	59 2 ..	1 0 ..	52 5
„ 30.....	113,557 ..	55 9 ..	57 9 ..	1 0 ..	53 0
Oct. 7.....	151,801 ..	56 7 ..	56 7 ..	1 0 ..	54 4
„ 14.....	151,870 ..	57 0 ..	55 8 ..	1 0 ..	56 11
„ 21.....	150,277 ..	57 6 ..	55 5 ..	1 0 ..	59 11

The importations since the harvest of 1853 have been—

	Wheat. Qrs.	Other grain. Qrs.	Total. Qrs.
Sixty weeks ended 13th Sept.	5,960,924	4,169,885	10,130,809
Five weeks ended 18th Oct.	57,359	162,527	219,886
	6,018,283	4,332,412	10,350,695
And the weekly averages have been—			
Sixty weeks ended 13th Sept.	99,000	69,000	168,000
Five weeks ended 18th Oct.	11,090	32,000	43,000
	Less 88,000	37,000	125,000

EAST INDIA REMITTANCES.

AMOUNT OF BILLS DRAWN FOR.

From the 25th September to the 7th October	Bengal....	£136,791	2	4
	Madras ..	62,124	7	8
	Bombay ..	293	15	0
From the 9th to the 24th of October	Bengal....	126,474	17	9
	Madras ..	27,288	17	7
	Bombay ..	4,016	13	4
		£356,989	13	8

MONTHLY CHRONOLOGY.

Sept. 29.—Suspension announced of Mr. J. Osteriede, of Moscow, and Mr. H. I. Bolotoff, of Shuya, both calico printers.

30.—Failure of Mr. G. A. Ulich of Trieste, with liabilities amounting to £100,000. News received of the defeat of the Russians, by the allied troops on the heights of the Alma.

Oct. 1.—Suspension of Mr. James Mitchell, of Bradford.

4.—Stoppage of Mr. Edward Oliver of Liverpool, announced, with liabilities amounting to £700,000. Also of Messrs. James McHenry and Co., Liverpool, with liabilities estimated at £500,000.

6.—Suspension of Messrs. Allen and Anderson of London, in the American grain and provision trade. Estimated liabilities between £300,000 and £400,000.

7.—Announcement of the death of Marshal de St. Arnaud.

11.—Intelligence of the capture of Balaklava by the English and French troops, and commencement of operations for the siege of Sebastopol.

11.—Failure of Messrs. Moulton and Plimpton of New York, announced. Liabilities, £60,000.

16.—Messrs. Perrins and Wright, corn factors, Dublin, suspend payment. Debts between £50,000 and £60,000.

23.—Failure of Messrs. Samuel F. Moore and Co., clothiers, and dry goods importers, of Boston (U. S.), announced.

23.—Messrs. Lemon and Co., bankers, Brentwood, Essex, suspend payment.

23.—Intelligence received from America of the failures of Messrs. Reed and Brothers, importers of dry goods at Philadelphia, for £200,000. Of Messrs. Lincoln, Wing, and Co., of Boston, in the Australian trade, and of Messrs. Chapin and Whitton, wholesale druggists.

NOTICES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

With the present double number, the greater part of arrears has been disposed of. Two or three legal queries, which arrived too late for insertion, will have to stand over until our next. All communications, unless they involve important questions, should be sent by the 20th of the month.

T. I. L. (Canterbury).—The work referred to has the stamp of authority, but being without the author's name, it cannot be directly traced to its true source.

VERAX (Bedford).—The American system of banking is widely different from that followed in this country, and being without similar protection, the risk is consequently much greater.

A BRANCH MANAGER.—It appears that the securities mentioned have touched within a fraction of par, and are now very freely operated in.

R. S. (Somerset).—We know nothing of the parties alluded to.

	27	28	29	30	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
Bank Stock (div. 9 per Ct.)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
3 per Ct. Red. Anns.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
3 per Ct. Consols Anns.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
New 3 per cent. Anns.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Ditto ex. div. for opening	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
New 3 1/2 per cent.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
9 per cent.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Long Anns. Jan. 5, 1860	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Ditto 30 years, Oct. 10, 1859	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Ditto 30 years, Jan. 5, 1860	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
India Stock (div. 104 percent.)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Ditto Bonds £1000 (div. 4 p.c.)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Ditto, under £500	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
South Sea Stock (div. 3 1/2 p.c.)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Bank Stock for op. 19th Oct.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Bank Stock for ac. 14th Nov.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
3 p. Ct. Cons. for ac. 17th Oct.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Ditto 14th November	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Ex. Bills £1000, 2 1/2 p. cent.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
London £1000 do.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Ditto. Small do.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Ditto Bonds scrip A 1858 3 p.c.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Ditto Scrip B 1859	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..

JOINT-STOCK BANKS.		Latest Prices.		London	
Australasia	£40 0 sh.,	£40 0	0 pd.	£80 ex. dv.	
Bank of India	50	50	0	63	
Commercial of London	100	20	0	31	
Colonial	100	20	0	17 1/2	
London and Westminster	100	20	0	41	
London Joint Stock	50	10	0	25 1/2	
Oriental Bank	25	25	0	4 1/2	
Provincial of Ireland	100	25	0	49	
National Provincial of England	100	22	10	20	
South Australian	25	25	0	31	
Union of Australia	25	25	0	69	
Union of London	50	10	0	24	
London Chartered of Australia	20	20	0	22 1/2	
English, Scottish, and Austrian Chartered	20	16	0	13	
Bank of India, China, and Australia	20	20	0	1	
New South Wales	20	20	0	43	

FOREIGN STOCKS (27th October.)		Paid up		Prices	
Brazilian Bonds, 5 per Cent.	..	..	100	..	64 1/2
Chilian Bonds, 6 per Cent.	..	..	..	..	11 1/2
Danish 5 per Cent.	..	..	..	..	90
Mexican 5 per Cent.	..	..	..	..	72
Peruvian 4 1/2 per Cent.	..	..	..	..	8 1/2
Portuguese Bonds, 4 per Cent.	..	..	..	..	104
Russian Bonds, 1852, 5 per Cent. in £ Ster.	..	..	..	..	100 1/2
Ditto, 4 1/2 per Cent. Deferred	..	..	..	..	81 1/2
Spanish Bonds 3 per Cent.	..	..	..	..	69 1/2
Ditto, 3 per Cent. Deferred	..	..	..	..	32 1/2
Austrian 5 per Cent.	..	..	..	..	60 1/2
Belgian Bonds, 4 1/2 per Cent.	..	..	..	..	70
Dutch 3 1/2 per Cent.	..	..	..	..	55
Ditto 4 per Cent. Loan	..	..	..	..	..
French 4 1/2 per Cent. at Paris, Oct. 26, 98 1/2, 60c.	..	..	..	..	..
Ditto 3 per Cent., ditto	..	..	..	..	..

The closing prices of the day are quoted.

Bank of England Weekly Returns.

Account, pursuant to the Act 7th and 8th of Victoria, cap. 32, for the Weeks ending as follows.

ISSUE DEPARTMENT.

	1854. Sept. 23rd.	1854. Sept. 30th.	1854. Oct. 7th.	1854. Oct. 14th.
Notes issued.....	£ 26,589,730	£ 26,464,300	£ 26,350,030	£ 26,333,410
Government debt.....	11,015,100	11,015,100	11,015,100	11,015,100
Other securities.....	2,984,900	2,984,900	2,984,900	2,984,900
Gold coin and bullion.....	12,589,730	12,464,300	12,350,030	12,333,410
Silver bullion.....	—	—	—	—
	26,589,730	26,464,300	26,350,030	26,333,410

BANKING DEPARTMENT.

	1854. Sept. 23rd.	1854. Sept. 30th.	1854. Oct. 7th.	1854. Oct. 14th.
Proprietors' capital.....	£ 14,553,000	£ 14,553,000	£ 14,553,000	£ 14,553,000
Reserve.....	3,710,358	3,719,493	3,728,623	3,117,959
Public deposits (including Ex- chequer, Savings' Banks, Com- missioners of National Debt, and Dividend Accounts).....	5,363,572	5,786,582	5,766,065	2,554,822
Other deposits.....	9,768,337	9,921,277	9,598,907	11,216,564
Seven day and other bills.....	1,021,395	1,030,651	1,059,737	1,079,956
	34,416,682	35,014,003	34,706,234	32,522,140
Government securities (including Dead Weight Annuity).....	10,096,955	11,006,210	11,015,466	11,079,838
Other securities.....	15,487,091	16,912,843	16,677,317	15,116,462
Notes.....	7,293,480	6,499,380	6,391,015	5,755,445
Gold and silver coin.....	639,156	695,570	622,436	571,195
	34,416,682	35,014,003	34,706,234	32,522,140

The Exchanges.

	Sept. 22nd.	Sept. 29th.	Oct. 6th.	Oct. 13th.
Amsterdam, short ..	11 16	11 16½	11 17	11 16½
Do. 3 months..	11 18	11 18½	11 18½	11 18½
Rotterdam, ditto ..	11 18	11 18½	11 18½	11 18½
Antwerp, ditto ..	25 32½	25 37½	25 42½	25 42½
Brussels, ditto.....	25 32½	25 37½	25 42½	25 42½
Hamburg, ditto.....	13 6½	13 7	13 7½	13 7½
Paris, short ..	25 10	25 12½	25 15	25 12½
Paris, 3 months ..	25 32½	25 35	25 37½	25 40
Marseilles, ditto ..	25 32½	25 35	25 40	25 40
Frankfort, ditto ..	118½	118½	119½	119½
Vienna, ditto.....	11 42	11 45	11 45	11 48
Trieste, ditto.....	11 44	11 48	11 48	11 52
Petersburgh, ditto ..	36½	36½	..	36½
Madrid, ditto ..	50½	50½	50	50
Cadix, ditto ..	50½	50½	50½	50½
Leghorn, ditto ..	30 50	30 55	30 55	30 55
Genoa, ditto ..	25 45	25 50	25 50	25 50
Naples, ditto.....	43	43	43½	43
Palermo, ditto ..	129½	129½	129½	129½
Messina, ditto ..	130	129½	129	129½
Lisbon, 60 days' date	53	53	53	53
Oporto, ditto ..	53½	53½	53½	53½
Rio Janeiro, ditto ..	—	—	—	—

PRICES OF BULLION.

	Per Ounce.	Per Ounce.	Per Ounce.	Per Ounce.
Foreign Gold in Bars, (Standard).....	£3 17 9	£3 17 9	£3 17 9	£3 17 9
Mexican Dollars ..	0 5 2½	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0
Silver in Bars (Stand.)	0 5 1½	0 5 1½	0 5 1½	0 5 1½

Bankers' Weekly Circulation Returns.

Pursuant to the Act 7 & 8 Victoria, c. 32: extracted from the LONDON GAZETTES.

PRIVATE BANKS.

NAME OF BANK.	Authorised Issue.	AVERAGE AMOUNT.			
		Sept. 9.	Sept. 16.	Sept. 23.	Sept. 30.
	£	£	£	£	£
1 Andover Bank	17,751	11,700	10,630	11,290	12,273
2 Ashford Bank	11,849	12,386	11,729	11,960	11,255
3 Aylsham Bank	5,854	4,868	4,870	4,494	4,880
4 Aylesbury Old Bank	48,461	26,818	26,558	27,033	28,604
5 Baldock and Biggleswade Bank ..	37,223	23,631	23,431	24,875	25,817
6 Barnstaple Bank	17,182	10,466	9,840	11,033	10,844
7 Basingstoke and Odiham Bank ...	24,730	17,550	18,164	18,654	19,440
8 Bedford Bank	34,218	30,395	31,314	32,185	33,701
9 Bewdley Bank	18,597	11,103	10,877	10,793	11,494
10 Bicester and Oxfordshire Bank ...	27,090	12,639	13,085	13,698	13,422
11 Birmingham Bank—Attwoods & Co.	23,695	23,400	23,431	24,790	24,886
12 Birmingham and Warwickshire Bk.	18,132	10,228	9,901	10,343	10,729
13 Blandford Bank	9,723	6,874	7,078	7,080	7,193
14 Boston Bank—Garfit and Co.	75,069	63,155	64,600	64,724	71,323
15 Boston Bank—Gee and Co.	15,161	13,874	14,094	15,087	14,614
16 Bridgewater Bank	10,028	5,480	5,698	5,208	5,428
17 Bristol Bank	48,277	37,813	37,173	35,495	37,049
18 Broseley and Bridgenorth Bank ...	26,717	15,546	15,570	16,014	16,533
19 Buckingham Bank	29,557	21,965	21,555	22,455	22,391
20 Bury and Suffolk Bank	82,362	60,836	61,752	63,410	64,790
21 Banbury Bank	43,457	27,476	27,927	29,169	30,419
22 Banbury Old Bank	55,153	22,932	22,773	23,722	25,473
23 Bath City Bank	4,572	2,848	3,735	3,262	3,524
24 Bedfordshire Leighton Buzzard Bk.	36,829	33,202	33,993	33,592	33,088
25 Birmingham Bk.—Taylor & Lloyds	38,816	32,105	31,011	30,995	31,950
26 Bradford Old Bank	12,676	11,196	11,241	11,808	12,225
27 Brecon Old Bank	68,271	66,067	69,180	67,171	67,198
28 Brighton Union Bank	33,794	22,563	22,526	21,931	21,493
29 Burlington and Driffield Bank	12,745	12,018	12,232	12,736	12,495
30 Bury St. Edmund's Bank	3,201	2,241	2,480	2,778	2,650
31 Cambridge Bk.—Mortlock & Co.	25,744	12,364	11,996	11,306	11,502
32 Cambridge and Cambridgeshire Bk.	49,916	38,770	40,146	41,584	45,041
33 Canterbury Bank	33,671	30,235	30,673	30,620	30,833
34 Carmarthen Bank	23,597	22,726	22,599	23,577	24,205
35 Chertsey Bank	3,436	2,820	2,841	2,998	3,777
36 Colchester Bank	25,082	15,772	16,019	15,740	16,544
37 Colchester and Essex Bank	48,704	28,379	29,528	28,875	30,045
38 Cornish Bank—Tweedy & Co. ...	49,869	49,086	48,692	45,232	50,264
39 Coventry Bank	12,045	6,069	5,910	5,389	5,617
40 City Bank, Exeter	21,627	18,811	18,604	18,551	18,585
41 Craven Bank—Alcocks & Co. ...	77,154	70,270	70,855	72,515	74,231
42 Cardiff Bank	7,001	7,152	6,894	6,605	6,515
43 Chepstow Old Bank	9,287	7,854	8,073	8,600	9,569
44 Derby Bank—Messrs. Evans	13,312	11,033	10,856	11,130	11,655
45 Derby Bank—Smith and Co.	41,304	34,430	34,099	34,925	39,416
46 Derby Old Bank	27,237	27,148	26,459	25,706	27,903
47 Devizes and Wiltshire Bank	20,574	8,507	8,503	8,562	8,758
48 Diss Bank	10,657	10,163	10,367	10,365	10,396
49 Doncaster Bank and Retford Bank	77,400	68,152	69,129	71,523	73,935
50 Darlington Bank ..	86,218	82,250	80,712	82,351	84,946
51 Devonport Bank	10,664	9,339	8,944	9,016	9,010
52 Dorchester Old Bank	48,807	46,093	46,583	46,675	47,585
53 East Cornwall Bk.—Robins & Co.	112,280	109,398	108,894	106,402	106,105
54 East Riding Bank—Bower & Co.	53,392	48,644	47,540	50,678	51,921
55 Essex Bk. & Bishops Stortford Bk.	69,637	39,095	41,500	42,795	43,338
56 Exeter Bank	37,894	26,382	26,368	26,878	27,742
57 Fakenham Bank	24,293	20,944	21,777	21,931	21,854

WEEKLY RETURNS OF BANKS OF ISSUE.

NAME OF BANK.	Authorised Issue.	AVERAGE AMOUNT.			
		Sept. 9.	Sept. 16.	Sept. 23.	Sept. 30.
	£	£	£	£	£
58 Faringdon Bk. & Bk. of Wantage	8,977	6,376	6,159	6,522	6,937
59 Farnham Bank.....	14,202	10,932	10,342	10,425	10,615
60 Faversham Bank.....	6,681	5,605	5,755	5,898	6,224
61 Godalming Bank.....	6,322	5,005	4,840	5,276	5,740
62 Guildford Bank.....	14,524	4,340	3,883	3,826	4,890
63 Grantham Bank—Hardy and Co.	30,372	22,793	22,803	24,536	26,013
64 Hastings Old Bank.....	38,038	26,554	27,402	26,296	27,559
65 Hereford City and County Bank..	22,364	14,122	14,294	14,949	14,620
66 Hertford and Ware Bank.....	23,635	12,470	11,858	11,717	11,712
67 Hull & Kingston-upon-Hull Bank	19,979	18,616	18,136	18,633	18,855
68 Huntingdon Town & County Bank	56,591	40,185	42,792	46,343	48,610
69 Harwich Bank.....	5,778	5,907	5,959	5,771	5,319
70 Hemel Hempstead Bank.....	23,842	21,475	21,678	22,239	22,541
71 Hertfordshire, Hitchin Bank.....	38,764	28,438	28,840	29,765	30,012
72 Hereford, Ross, & Archenfield Bk.	27,625	21,242	21,264	21,025	21,500
73 Ipswich Bank.....	21,901	15,945	17,511	17,596	18,038
74 Ipswich & Needham Market Bank	80,699	56,250	56,912	58,593	61,651
75 Kentish Bank—Mercer & Co. ...	19,895	13,416	14,179	14,466	13,959
76 Kington and Radnorshire Bank...	26,050	23,982	24,058	25,912	26,376
77 Knighton Bank.....	9,090	9,360	9,202	8,680	9,075
78 Knaresborough Old Bank.....	21,825	21,221	21,485	21,751	21,899
79 Kendal Bank.....	44,663	38,619	38,625	39,056	40,157
80 Kettering Bank.....	9,192	8,706	9,463	9,052	9,268
81 Lane End Staffordshire Bank ...	5,624	5,402	5,461	5,377	5,376
82 Leeds Bank.....	53,357	52,949	53,527	53,636	52,444
83 Leeds Union Bank.....	57,459	56,856	57,253	57,402	58,230
84 Leicester Bank.....	32,322	23,238	23,409	24,135	25,185
85 Lewes Old Bank.....	44,836	27,190	27,255	28,360	28,897
86 Lichfield Bank.....	22,786	8,803	9,111	9,537	10,261
87 Lincoln Bank.....	100,342	75,135	73,703	76,590	79,891
88 Llandoverly Bank & Llandilo Bank	32,945	20,016	18,762	22,982	23,544
89 Loughborough Bank.....	7,359	6,933	6,493	6,739	6,953
90 Lymington Bank.....	5,038	4,084	4,072	3,775	3,850
91 Lynn Regis and Lincolnshire Bank	42,817	30,955	31,894	31,825	32,757
92 Lynn Regis and Norfolk Bank ...	13,917	9,565	10,053	11,036	12,680
93 Macclesfield Bank.....	15,760	14,963	15,023	14,907	15,268
94 Manningtree Bank.....	7,692	2,655	2,480	2,479	2,226
95 Merionethshire Bank.....	10,906	6,181	7,277	9,285	9,714
96 Miners' Bank.....	18,688	15,284	15,573	15,599	15,919
97 Monmouthshire Agricultural and Commercial Bank.....	29,335	28,762	28,156	27,191	28,087
98 Monmouth Old Bank.....	16,385	15,830	17,191	15,535	15,484
99 Newark Bank.....	28,788	17,583	17,845	19,076	20,683
100 Newark and Sleaford Bank.....	51,615	41,442	42,689	43,775	46,927
101 Newbury Bank.....	36,787	17,721	17,380	17,911	18,249
102 Newmarket Bank.....	23,098	14,708	14,832	15,161	16,413
103 Norwich Crown Bank and Norfolk and Suffolk Bank.....	49,671	45,443	48,618	49,395	50,615
104 Norwich and Norfolk Bank.....	75,372	64,216	65,858	64,794	67,667
105 Nottingham, Nottinghamshire ...	10,866	8,311	8,039	8,166	9,120
106 Nunneaton Bank.....	5,898	2,605	3,101	3,095	3,042
107 Naval Bank, Plymouth.....	27,321	20,902	20,883	20,800	20,560
108 New Sarum Bk.—Everett & Smith	15,659	12,814	12,371	12,696	12,718
109 Nottingham Bank.....	31,047	26,540	26,505	27,711	28,936
110 Oswestry Bank.....	18,471	9,221	9,430	9,663	9,578
111 Oxford Old Bank.....	34,391	27,467	26,534	26,165	26,575
112 Old Bank, Tonbridge.....	13,183	7,808	8,241	8,205	7,955
113 Oxfordshire Witney Bank.....	11,852	9,875	9,393	9,199	9,785
114 Pease's Old Bank, Hull.....	48,807	45,612	45,414	45,693	46,221
115 Penzance Bank.....	11,405	10,578	10,413	10,845	10,818
116 Peterborough Bank—Yorke & Co.	12,545	8,232	8,695	9,004	9,429

WEEKLY RETURNS OF BANKS OF ISSUE.

NAME OF BANK.	Authorized Issue.	AVERAGE AMOUNT.			
		Sept. 9.	Sept. 16.	Sept. 23.	Sept. 30.
	£	£	£	£	£
117 Pembrokehire Bank	12,910	11,576	11,591	11,730	13,065
118 Reading Bank—Simmonds & Co.	37,519	26,025	26,065	27,095	27,825
119 Reading Bk.—Stephens & Blandy	43,271	24,280	24,549	25,700	26,286
120 Richmond Bank, Richmond	6,889	6,330	6,146	6,649	7,123
121 Rochdale Bank	5,590	5,395	5,298	5,350	5,443
122 Rochester, Chatham, & Strood Bk.	10,480	7,494	7,821	7,595	8,149
123 Royston Bank	16,393	12,108	12,304	12,272	12,591
124 Rugby Bank	17,250	9,648	9,892	9,833	10,525
125 Rye Bank	29,864	13,786	14,674	14,334	14,696
126 Ross Old Bank, Herefordshire ...	4,420	4,104	3,970	4,031	4,146
127 Saffron Walden & North Essex Bk.	47,646	20,526	20,885	21,475	23,090
128 Salop Bank	22,338	14,739	14,047	14,465	14,609
129 Scarborough Old Bank	24,813	23,885	23,514	24,040	24,588
130 Shrewsbury Old Bank	43,191	33,374	34,331	33,864	35,602
131 Sittingbourne and Milton Bank...	4,789	2,404	2,294	2,481	2,691
132 Southampton Town & County Bk.	18,589	15,075	15,566	15,135	15,075
133 Southwell Bank	14,744	10,796	10,996	10,939	11,703
134 Southampton and Hampshire Bk.	6,770	3,245	3,333	3,450	3,744
135 Stone Bank	9,154	370	370	370	370
136 Stafford Old Bank	14,166	10,027	9,963	9,600	10,542
137 Stamford and Rutland Bank	31,858	21,777	24,805	25,051	27,309
138 Shrewsbury and Welsh Pool Bank	25,336	21,324	23,059	22,703	22,400
139 Taunton Bank	29,799	24,261	24,475	24,888	25,760
140 Tavistock Bank	13,421	7,325	6,640	6,277	6,721
141 Thornbury Bank	10,026	5,276	4,919	5,260	5,530
142 Tiverton and Devonshire Bank...	13,470	8,872	8,815	8,927	9,685
143 Thrapstone and Kettering Bank...	11,559	12,294	11,735	10,672	10,980
144 Tring Bank and Chesham Bank...	13,531	11,165	10,775	10,799	11,209
145 Towcester Old Bank	10,801	7,983	7,950	7,647	8,285
146 Town and County of Poole Bk. and Ringwood and Poole Bk.	11,856	9,645	9,929	9,951	10,422
147 Union Bank, Cornwall	17,003	14,710	12,760	12,295	12,032
148 Uxbridge Old Bank	25,136	13,016	12,842	13,536	14,469
149 Wallingford Bank	17,064	6,922	6,955	6,925	6,662
150 Warwick and Warwickshire Bank	30,504	20,536	21,543	21,467	21,922
151 Wellington Bank, Somerset	6,528	5,290	5,961	6,563	6,719
152 West Riding Bank	46,158	44,785	45,361	46,833	45,903
153 Whitby Old Bank	14,258	12,965	12,960	12,921	13,270
154 Winchester, Alresford & Alton Bk.	25,892	18,359	18,641	18,425	19,048
155 Weymouth Old Bank	16,461	15,293	15,219	15,474	15,560
156 Wirksworth and Derbyshire Bk.	37,602	35,631	37,312	37,091	35,893
157 Wisbeach and Lincolnshire Bank	59,713	40,119	41,680	46,203	50,698
158 Wiveliscombe Bank	7,602	7,264	7,463	7,337	7,832
159 Wolverhampton Bk.—Goodricke	14,180	13,509	13,356	13,124	13,737
160 Worcester Bank	15,463	6,388	6,066	6,396	6,344
161 Worcester Old Bank	87,448	57,687	59,780	62,757	66,390
162 Worcestershire Bank	14,309	9,753	10,049	9,825	9,451
163 Wolverham. Bk.—R. & W. Fryer	11,867	11,834	11,025	11,046	11,149
164 Yarmouth and Suffolk Bank	53,060	36,695	38,655	38,515	40,071
165 Yarmouth, Norfolk, & Suffolk Bk.	13,229	11,557	11,856	12,235	12,320
166 York Bank	46,387	37,322	38,223	39,028	39,142

JOINT STOCK BANKS.

1 Bank of Westmoreland	12,225	8,535	8,405	8,419	8,490
2 Barnsley Banking Company	9,563	9,380	9,642	9,294	9,390
3 Bradford Banking Company	49,292	47,211	49,104	49,839	50,145
4 Bilston District Banking Company	9,418	8,248	9,399	8,373	9,190
5 Bank of Whitehaven	32,681	28,835	28,816	28,348	30,021
6 Bradford Commercial Banking Co.	20,084	18,141	18,986	19,979	20,178
7 Burton, Uttoxeter, and Staffordshire Union Bank	60,701	44,067	44,085	44,782	48,699

WEEKLY RETURNS OF BANKS OF ISSUE.

NAME OF BANK.	Authorized Issue.	AVERAGE AMOUNT.			
		Sept. 9.	Sept. 16.	Sept. 23.	Sept. 30.
	£	£	£	£	£
8 Chesterfield & N. Derbysh. Bk. Co.	10,421	10,659	10,512	10,235	10,029
9 Cumberland Union Banking Co....	35,395	32,639	32,767	33,735	35,356
10 Cheltenham & Glo'stershire Bk. Co.	12,786	9,438	9,453	9,640	9,167
11 Coventry and Warwickshire Bk. Co.	28,734	19,771	20,110	21,305	23,015
12 Coventry Union Banking Company	16,251	13,744	13,792	13,656	14,351
13 County of Gloucester Banking Co.	144,352	101,072	100,440	100,693	102,833
14 Carlisle & Cumberland Banking Co.	25,610	23,420	23,915	25,284	27,272
15 Carlisle City and District Bank ...	19,972	19,439	20,085	20,234	19,932
16 Dudley & West Bromwich Bk. Co.	37,696	32,096	37,648	38,200	41,244
17 Derby and Derbyshire Banking Co.	20,093	19,755	20,151	19,620	19,606
18 Darlington Dist. Joint Stock Bk. Co.	26,134	22,090	22,161	23,113	24,170
19 East of England Bank	25,025	24,120	23,950	22,898	24,855
20 Gloucestershire Banking Company	155,920	139,996	142,531	145,176	147,662
21 Halifax Joint Stock Bank.....	18,534	18,059	17,909	17,999	18,022
22 Huddersfield Banking Company...	37,354	31,744	34,913	35,128	34,168
23 Hull Banking Company	29,333	22,111	23,130	22,463	23,753
24 Halifax Commercial Banking Co...	13,733	13,269	13,680	13,460	13,680
25 Halifax & Huddersfield Union Bk.	44,137	39,970	41,670	42,225	41,050
26 Helston Banking Company	1,503	1,464	1,542	1,444	1,407
27 Herefordshire Banking Company...	25,047	17,378	16,845	17,185	17,660
28 Knaresborough and Claro Bk. Co.	28,059	25,205	25,022	27,008	27,455
29 Kingsbridge Joint Stock Bank	3,952	2,680	2,796	3,043	3,079
30 Lancaster Banking Company	64,311	54,797	54,677	55,814	55,870
31 Leeds Banking Company	23,076	23,576	22,852	23,115	20,910
32 Leicestershire Banking Company...	86,060	61,522	62,184	64,110	65,824
33 Lincoln and Lindsey Banking Co.	51,620	45,454	47,509	48,579	53,010
34 Leamington Priors and Warwick- shire Bank	13,875	10,505	10,462	10,169	9,996
35 Ludlow and Tenbury Bank	10,215	10,013	9,944	10,100	10,116
36 Moore & Robinson's Notts. Bank...	35,813	29,013	29,776	30,163	31,340
37 Nottingham and Notts. Banking Co.	29,477	24,494	25,517	26,474	27,059
38 National Provincial Bk. of England	442,371	403,401	405,115	420,698	436,200
39 North Wils. Banking Company ...	63,939	37,095	38,505	39,691	41,604
40 Northamptonshire Union Bank ...	84,356	67,276	68,815	72,659	72,736
41 Northamptonshire Banking Co. ...	26,401	23,242	23,216	25,286	25,573
42 North and South Wales Bank	63,951	39,122	42,618	34,125	44,496
43 Pare's Leicestershire Banking Co...	59,300	39,608	41,601	41,970	42,673
44 Salford and Banking Company ...	8,122	2,230	2,193	2,400	2,286
45 Sheffield Banking Company.....	35,843	37,365	37,584	34,125	33,641
46 Stamford, Spalding & Boston Bk. Co.	55,721	44,991	47,034	50,961	55,914
47 Suckey's Banking Company	356,976	334,157	338,266	343,140	351,617
48 Shropshire Banking Company.....	47,951	47,543	47,760	46,850	48,014
49 Stourbridge and Kidderminster Bk.	56,830	57,563	56,481	55,739	55,652
50 Sheffield and Hallamshire Bank ...	23,524	24,240	24,093	22,338	21,393
51 Sheffield & Rotherham Jt. Stock Bk.	52,496	52,683	53,422	51,451	51,188
52 Swaledale and Wensleydale Bank...	54,372	45,510	45,519	49,081	52,243
53 Storey and Thomas's Bank	9,714	9,130	9,225	10,116	9,850
54 Wolverhampton & Staffordsh. Bk.	35,378	31,523	36,965	36,267	33,780
55 Wakefield and Barnsley Union Bk.	14,604	11,710	11,616	11,557	11,587
56 Whitehaven Joint Stock Bank ...	31,916	28,632	28,544	28,784	30,810
57 Warwick and Leamington Bk. Co.	37,124	26,734	27,089	27,179	29,399
58 West of England and South Wales District Bank	83,535	82,078	80,667	81,403	83,357
59 Wilts & Dorset Banking Company	76,162	72,562	75,997	76,416	73,543
60 West Riding Union Banking Co....	34,029	31,500	32,702	33,241	32,510
61 Whitechurch & Ellesmere Bk. Co.	7,475	3,825	4,040	4,467	5,190
62 Worcester City and County Bk. Co.	6,848	5,216	5,121	5,528	5,709
63 York Union Banking Company ...	71,240	66,202	68,395	69,493	70,540
64 York City and County Banking Co.	94,695	87,505	88,591	92,980	96,495
65 Yorkshire Banking Company	122,532	122,046	125,362	124,386	117,048

SUMMARY OF WEEKLY RETURNS OF BANKS OF ISSUE.

	Fixed Issues.	Sept. 9.	Sept. 16.	Sept. 23.	Sept. 30.
166 Private Banks.....	£4,607,455	£3,519,473	£3,551,070	£3,607,334	£3,721,714
65 Joint Stock Banks..	3,325,857	2,898,599	2,952,917	3,002,763	3,064,952
231 Totals	7,933,312	6,418,072	6,503,987	6,610,097	6,786,666

*Average Weekly Circulation of these Banks
or the month ending September 30th:—*

Private Banks	£3,599,898
Joint-Stock Banks	2,979,808

*Average Weekly Circulation of Private
and Joint-Stock Banks ending as above. £6,579,706*

On a comparison of the above with the
Returns for the month ending 2nd September
last, it shows:—

An increase in the notes of Private Banks, of	£114,846
An increase in the notes of Joint-Stock Banks, of	125,897
Total increase on the month.....	£240,743

And as compared with the month ending
1st October, 1853, it shows—

A decrease in the notes of Private Banks, of	£187,002
A decrease in the notes of Joint-Stock Banks, of	93,070

Total decrease, as compared with the
same period of last year

The following is the comparative state of the
circulation, as regards the fixed issues—

The Private Banks are below their fixed issues.....	£1,007,557
The Joint-Stock Banks are below their fixed issues.....	346,049
Total below the fixed issues	£1,353,606

Irish and Scotch Circulation Returns.

*Average Circulation, and Coin held by the IRISH and SCOTCH BANKS during the four
weeks ending Saturday, the 30th day of September, 1854.*

IRISH BANKS.

NAME OF BANK.	Authorised Circulation.	Average Circulation during Four Weeks, ending as above.			Average Amt. of Gold & Sil- ver Coin held during Four Weeks ending as above.
		£5 and upwards.	Under £5.	Total.	
	£	£	£	£	£
Bank of Ireland.....	3,738,428	1,861,350	1,018,275	2,880,325	833,922
Provincial Bank of Ireland	927,667	316,074	520,274	836,348	245,905
Belfast Bank	281,611	61,861	329,902	391,763	212,129
Northern Bank	243,440	34,448	195,181	229,630	87,997
Ulster Bank	311,079	51,707	338,230	389,937	125,488
National Bank of Ireland...	761,757	381,746	492,457	874,204	286,412
Carrick-on-Suir Nat. Bank	24,084	10,712	11,517	22,230	4,051
Clonmel National Bank ...	66,428	24,105	25,026	49,131	11,454
TOTALS (Irish Banks) ...	6,354,494	2,742,003	2,931,562	5,673,568	1,807,358

SCOTCH BANKS.

Bank of Scotland	300,485	120,725	264,577	385,302	139,045
Boyal Bank of Scotland ...	183,000	56,541	113,358	169,899	53,574
British Linen Company	438,024	172,442	312,562	485,005	159,324
Commercial Bk. of Scotland	374,880	153,972	337,093	491,066	151,139
National Bank of Scotland..	297,024	106,052	235,478	341,531	78,409
Union Bank of Scotland and Banking Com. in Aberdeen	415,690	167,957	342,546	510,503	162,902
Edinburgh & Glasgow Bk...	136,657	66,035	89,280	155,315	45,819
Aberdeen Town and Co. Bk.	70,133	33,994	75,435	109,429	41,355
North of Scotland Bk. Co...	154,319	82,343	103,748	186,092	51,056
Dundee Banking Company	33,451	13,856	24,573	38,430	8,128
Eastern Bank of Scotland...	33,636	15,102	27,052	42,154	12,557
Western Bank of Scotland...	337,938	151,586	386,743	538,329	311,184
Clydesdale Banking Co. ...	104,028	51,895	112,265	164,160	82,820
City of Glasgow Bank	72,921	71,383	105,463	176,847	115,860
Caledonian Banking Co. ...	53,434	27,122	49,196	76,319	36,981
Perth Banking Company ...	38,656	14,287	33,347	47,635	16,043
Central Bank of Scotland...	42,933	16,710	35,980	52,690	24,124
TOTALS (Scotch Banks)...	3,087,209	1,322,002	2,648,696	3,970,706	1,488,319

CIRCULATION RETURNS. SUMMARY OF IRISH & SCOTCH RETURNS TO SEPTEMBER 30, 1854.

The Returns of Circulation of the Irish and Scotch Banks for the four weeks ending 30th September, when added together, give the following as the average weekly circulation of these banks during the past month, viz. :—

Average Circulation of the Irish Banks .. £3,673,568
Average Circulation of the Scotch Banks 3,970,706

Total Average Circulation of these Banks
for the past month £9,644,274

On comparing these amounts with the Returns for the month ending 2nd September last, they show—

Increase in the Circulation of Irish Banks £96,157
Increase in the Circulation of Scotch Banks 103,263

Total increase on the month £199,422

And as compared with the month ending October 1st, 1853, they show—

Increase in the Circulation of Irish Banks £162,593
Increase in the Circulation of Scotch Banks 127,430

Total increase on the year 290,063

The fixed issues of the Irish and Scotch Banks at the present time are given in the *Banking Almanac*, as follows :—

8 Banks in Ireland, allowed to issue... £6,314,994
18 Banks in Scotland, allowed to issue .. 3,087,399

26 Banks in all, allowed to issue..... £9,441,793

The following appears, therefore, to be the comparative state of the circulation :—

Irish Banks are below their fixed issue .. £698,326
Scotch Banks are above their fixed issue 953,427

Total above the fixed issue £292,571

The amounts of Gold and Silver held at the head offices of the several banks, during the past month, have been as follows :—

Gold and Silver held by the Irish Banks £1,867,383
Gold and Silver held by the Scotch Banks 1,458,319

Total of Gold and Silver Coin £3,325,677

Being a decrease of £7,682 on the part of the Irish Banks, and a decrease of £6,564 on the part of the Scotch Banks, on the several amounts held by them during the preceding month.

CIRCULATION OF THE UNITED KINGDOM TO SEPTEMBER 30, 1854.

The following is the state of the Note Circulation of the United Kingdom, for the month ending the 30th September, 1854.

Circulation of Notes for the Month ending 30th September, as compared with the previous month :

	Sept. 2.	Sept. 30.	Increase.	Decrease.
Bank of England	£20,016,656	£19,616,626	—	£430,630
Private Banks	3,483,032	3,599,898	£114,846	—
Joint Stock Banks	2,653,911	2,979,808	325,897	—
Total in England	26,385,619	26,196,332	240,743	430,630
Scotland	3,867,441	3,970,706	103,265	—
Ireland	5,577,411	5,673,568	96,157	—
United Kingdom	£35,830,471	£35,840,606	£440,165	£430,630

The comparison of the month ending October 1st, 1853, with the month ending September 30th, 1854, shows a decrease in the Bank of England circulation of £2,715,479, a decrease in Private Banks of £187,002, and a decrease in Joint Stock Banks of £95,070; being a total decrease in England of £2,997,551; while in Scotland there is an increase of £127,480; and in Ireland an increase of £162,583. Thus showing that the month ending 30th September, as compared with the same period last year, presents a decrease of £2,997,551 in England, and a decrease of £2,707,488 in the United Kingdom.

The return of Bullion in the Bank of England, for the month ending September 30th, gives an aggregate amount in both departments of £13,222,486. On a comparison of this with the Return for the month ending September 2nd, there appears to be a decrease of £344,241; and a decrease of £2,616,788 as compared with the same period last year.

The stock of specie held by the Banks in Scotland and Ireland during the month ending 30th September, was £3,295,677; being a decrease of £14,646 as compared with the return of the previous month, and an increase of £598,961 as compared with the corresponding period last year.

THE BANKERS' MAGAZINE;

AND

Journal of the Money Market.

DECEMBER, 1854.

THE GENERAL PROSPECTS OF THE WAR.

THE events of the war during the past month, exciting as they are, and gratifying to the national vanity, in so far as they prove that long years of peace have not, in any way, diminished the proverbial courage of the British race, scarcely afford ground for hoping that the victories which have been won will be attended with immediate results, in humbling the pride of the enemy, and compelling him to sue for peace. The accounts which have been received all tend to show that the Czar is, after successive defeats, really stronger at this moment in the Crimea (where, for all practical purposes, the war may be said to be at present confined), than he was in the early part of September, when the Allies had effected their debarkation at Eupatoria, and certainly much more so than he was on the 20th of that month, when Menschikoff lost the battle of the Alma, and retreated upon Balchiseraï.

Whether the advance of the Allies, after their first victory, to Balaclava, was, in point of strategy, the best course to pursue, seems to be open to question; and, indeed, whether the attack upon the heights of Alma was altogether politic at the moment it was made, successful and glorious though it was, may be doubted. That Lord Raglan and Marshal St. Arnaud had good reasons for what they did, every one will be ready to admit; but, to the uninitiated mind, the idea will, nevertheless, intrude itself, that, having regard to the great objects of the campaign,

the first step for the Allies, after effecting a landing, was to obtain possession of the great military road, march upon Perekop, which, taken (and, at that time, it would have been no difficult matter to take it; for there was no sufficient force there for its defence), might, with the aid of half a dozen small steamers, armed with the Lancaster guns, have been held by a mere handful of men; and the sea-board being, at the same time, well watched by our cruisers, the Russian reinforcements which have ever since been pouring into the Crimea, have been effectually kept back. The bulk of the allied army, with the additional forces it has since, from time to time, received, would thus have been left free to deal with the reduced and daily decreasing power of Menschikoff, and, with the aid of the fleet, with the garrison of Sebastopol. The fall of that fortress would then have been but a question of time. Gradually hemmed in by 60,000 or 70,000 French and English troops—subjected to daily attacks from both sea and land—all supplies and all chance of succour cut off—it must, according to all human probability, in the course of a few weeks, have been starved into submission. Unless the object were to take Sebastopol by a *coup*, the only argument that can be imagined against the course here suggested, is the difficulty of marching an army through an enemy's country 100 miles, on to Perekop, and 150 miles back again to Sebastopol. But that argument fails altogether, if the reports we have received are to be relied upon; for we are therein told that, though the country is the enemy's, the people generally are most favourably disposed to the invaders; that they readily furnish supplies of all kinds, and even evince a disposition to aid personally in the operations of the invading army. There could not, therefore, have been any extraordinary difficulties attending such a march; and the principal danger to be apprehended—viz., attacks from the bands of Cossacks, who would doubtless have been constantly hovering, in disagreeable proximity, upon flank and rear—might have been met by an improvised body of native irregular cavalry, acting in conjunction with the light cavalry of the Allies. Some good reasons, however, which we, at this distance, see not, and which have never been explained in any of the official or private despatches, have induced the very competent military hands, to whom the conduct of the war has been entrusted, to adopt a different course; and we have to deplore the delay—whether unavoidable or not—which has occurred, and is still likely to occur, in carrying out the object for which the campaign in the Crimea was entered upon. It may be urged that the fall of Sebastopol would not have been a blow sufficiently severe to have brought the Czar to his senses. It would, nevertheless,

have been an important step gained. The Crimea in our hands, and the Russian fleet in the harbour of Sebastopol annihilated or taken, the power of Russia in the Black Sea would have been destroyed, and the Allies left free to pursue their advantage, by extending their operations to other parts of the enemy's territory, with some prospect of bringing the war to an early and a successful termination.

The allied armies, at present before Sebastopol, are confessedly and obviously insufficient for their purpose. It is possible—nay, it is highly probable—that the town and the forts might be carried by assault, but it would be at an enormous sacrifice of life; and what then would be the position of the assailants? Even now, while beleaguering the Russian strong-hold, the Allies are, themselves, besieged in their own intrenchments by a vastly superior, and daily increasing Russian force, by which they are completely shut out from all communication with the land-side, and all supplies from that quarter, while the intercourse between the main body of the enemy, and the town and harbour, is effectually maintained. Already, the Russians appear to look upon the question of, whether Sebastopol shall be captured, or the siege, raised, and the Allies driven to take refuge on board their ships as merely one of numbers. While they are in possession of the military road in their rear, they are sure of receiving constant reinforcements, and of immediately filling up the gaps made in their ranks by each successive engagement, however large they may be. And they, at the same time, know that, as the winter advances, the Allies, who have to depend upon their ships for every additional man, as well as for their provisions, will experience more and more difficulty in supplying their losses, though numerically so much smaller, and in maintaining their ground. To increase the disparity of force—for it cannot be supposed that such an order can have been given for the mere purpose of adding to the barbarities of war—there is reason to believe that the Russian soldiers have received instructions to kill all the wounded and prisoners who may fall into their hands. It is true, that much may be hoped from the operations of Omar Pacha on the Pruth, where, by the vacillation of Austria—if it be not something worse—he has for months past been kept in forced idleness, while he should have been employed in finding for the numerous Russian divisions, which have been sent round by forced marches, to swell the forces of Menschikoff, sufficient occupation in protecting their own Bessarabian frontier. But, for those operations to have any effect in creating a diversion, and keeping back further contingents of Gortschakoff's army of the Principalities from swelling the already very considerable forces of Menschikoff in the Crimea, they must be immediate.

At every point of his wide-spread dominions, the Czar appears to have availed himself with energy and skill of the delay granted to him by the Western powers, before they declared war, in augmenting his strength, and preparing for the event. In the ports of the White Sea, and in the far-distant settlements of Kam-schatka, we find that troops have been collected, and every precaution has been taken against attack ; and, accordingly, we have, in the news of last week, the announcement of the failure of an allied squadron in an attempt to destroy the two Russian frigates, the *Aurora* and the *Dwina*, that had taken refuge behind the batteries of the fortress of Petropaulovski, in the extreme north of the Pacific, though they succeeded in inflicting no inconsiderable loss upon the enemy. All this goes to prove that those who had flattered themselves with the idea that the war would be but the affair of a month or two, will be egregiously mistaken. From everything we now see to the contrary, it may be protracted for years. At the same time, any one who contemplates calmly the relative material resources of the belligerents, cannot for a moment entertain a doubt that the Allies must in the end prevail. With them, it is a question of time and money, and that only.

Meanwhile, it were insanity to close the eyes to the fact, that the existing aspect of affairs, entails upon the country evils of a formidable character. In addition to the heavy drain upon our pockets, which is inseparable from a state of war, we have to lament the still more serious loss arising from the depression of trade which the uncertainty in which we are involved necessarily occasions. Already, we see speculation at a stand still—ordinary and legitimate trading operations crippled—the bankrupt list increasing ; and that there will be, ere long, a heavy drain of the precious metals for payment of the troops, as well as for the purchase of grain, may be prophesied with certainty. Every man who looks at the matter calmly and rationally, unbiassed by excitement on the one hand, or needless alarm on the other, will feel that we have entered upon a period, be it longer, or be it shorter, of great anxiety, and very serious monetary and commercial difficulty.

The first point for consideration is, how to provide for the charges of the war, towards which the amount already voted will be but as a drop in the ocean. As soon as Parliament meets, it having been called for the dispatch of business on the 12th instant, we shall have the Chancellor of the Exchequer coming down with a proposition for raising sundry millions, to be followed by other demands of a similar character, from time to time, as the war progresses. Those demands must be met in a liberal spirit, as we are convinced they will be, both by the Parliament and the country ; for, unless they are so met, the war, with all

its abundant inconveniences—its present hopes in money—and, what is of more consequence, in valuable and gallant lives, and its permanent losses, in retarding civilisation, stopping the march of improvement and social progress, may be indefinitely protracted.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer, it is said, is for meeting the expenditure of the year by the income of the year; that is, by raising additional taxes to meet the charges of the war as they arise. If it were possible to bring the war to a conclusion in a single campaign, it might be policy to do so, though, even then, it would bear with considerable hardship upon a large portion of the community; but when we have before us the prospects of a series of campaigns, and an expenditure the extent of which no one can presume to calculate—incurred, too, for the benefit of succeeding generations, quite as much as for that of the present—to proceed upon such a principle, would be to inflict not merely a hardship, but a positive injustice. The present generation are now paying war debts incurred by their predecessors; and to superadd to that the payment of all the expenses of carrying on a war like that in which we are now engaged, would be intolerable. The weight of taxation this year will fall with peculiar severity upon the commercial and trading classes, and the industrial community generally. Persons of small fixed incomes, and those who depend upon their brains and their hands for their daily bread—those who have to pay war prices for all they consume, but have no power of charging war prices in return—those whose means are limited in proportion as trade decreases and employers fail—will have to make great sacrifices, and undergo many little privations, to meet the demands which the Chancellor of the Exchequer has already made upon them. Any attempt, therefore, to add to the burden now borne by these classes, would not succeed, and might be attended with results which all well-wishers of their country would unite in deprecating. In France, it appears, they are adopting the more sensible plan of making posterity, who will participate in the advantages to be derived from the success of the war, bear its fair proportion of the expense. Why the same mode of raising the necessary supplies should not be adopted here, it is difficult to conceive. Practical common sense, as well as all precedent, alike point to it, while abstract theory only can be advanced against it. But, however necessary it may be to adhere to the principle of making the income of the year meet the expenditure, in ordinary years, it is obviously impossible to follow it strictly in extraordinary years; and to attempt it would be about as reasonable as for a railway company requiring a new branch, or the reconstruction of the greater

portion of its line, to talk about meeting the cost by the earnings of a single year. The necessarily large expenditure which we are now making in prosecuting, in conjunction with France, military operations against Russia, must be regarded as the outlay of capital, the return from which will be enjoyed by posterity, it is to be hoped, for many generations, in the preservation to them of the blessings of peace, and the evidence of a change which delay might render ruinous. A loan effected at the present moment would not add sensibly to the burdens of the people. It would not increase the current expenses in any way. The saving occasioned by the recent reduction of the 3½ per Cents. would more than counterbalance the interest upon any loan that could be required for immediate purposes; and even if the war should be of longer duration, and more expensive than we suppose, the falling in of the 30 years annuities in 1859, and the long annuities in 1860, would meet any additional charge that the country could possibly be called upon to pay. But, whatever the mode by which the money may be raised, the interest of humanity, as well as of true economy, demand that the war be prosecuted vigorously until it is brought to a successful issue. There must be no temporizing with the foe—no half measures—no patched-up peace. Russia must be, at whatever cost, thoroughly humbled, and her power to make unprovoked aggression upon her neighbours, and to embroil Europe in war for the purposes of her own ambition, taken from her.

THE TURKISH LOAN.

THERE appears to be some inexplicable fatality connected with the various negotiations for a Turkish loan. The two earlier endeavours to arrange the contract were defeated by circumstances of a wholly opposite character, and the third and last, although apparently successful, has been attended with results that will, at least temporarily, entail heavy losses upon those who have entered into it for the purposes of speculation. As an investment, it is probably worth as much as it ever was; the solemn assurances afforded of the perfect regularity of the transaction having, at length, been corroborated by the publication of the Imperial Firman guaranteeing the appropriation of the Egyptian tribute to the payment of the dividends. It is, however, singular that through some mismanagement, the prejudice

against the stock created by the ill success of the first operation has been increased, and although, until very recently, it was supported at a premium, such has been the character of business latterly that it has been forced to a very heavy discount. Without particularising the fluctuations the scrip has undergone, which, at a rough estimate, cannot be less than 10 or 11 per cent. during the month, attention may be called to the principal causes supposed to have influenced the market. The first break in price occurred when Consols began to fall, through the adverse intelligence from the Crimea. Turkish scrip, although then affected only in a slight degree, became heavy, but sales or orders from Paris confirmed the flatness. It was now intimated that an irregularity had occurred in the issue of the bonds to represent scrip paid in full; and, notwithstanding it was explained that this arrangement had taken place to accommodate the French holders, the contractors were compelled to promise to withdraw them. Another difficulty was started, which to most minds appeared more serious than the former. The signatures of Sir I. L. Goldsmid and Mr. J. Horsley Palmer, were merely lithographed, and this it was contended offered undue facilities for fraud. The committee of the Stock Exchange here interfered, and the point having been discussed, it was agreed that the contractors should attach their autographs to the bonds, although it was shown that the precedent of the signature to Bank of England notes was the one on which the proceeding had been founded. In the meanwhile, no effort has been spared to give confidence to the operators; but, still persisting to believe that there is a doubt concerning the full powers of the loan, they will not purchase freely, even at a considerable depreciation. The appearance of the Firman guaranteeing the Egyptian tribute has certainly produced a better feeling, but such is the pertinacity of those who are sceptics, that they find fault with the terms in which it is couched, no special reference being made to the allocation of the general revenues in addition. The clauses of the bond itself will fortunately answer those objections, and therefore the vital question of security is satisfactorily established. But while admitting this essential consideration, and believing that the dividends will be punctually discharged, without unforeseen difficulties occur, it is scarcely possible to hope that in the present condition of things there will be a recovery to a high premium, the payment of the instalments and a knowledge that a further sum of £2,000,000 of the £5,000,000 remains to be negotiated preventing the public from adopting it as a favourite medium for the outlay of capital. The following is a copy of the Firman, which it may be useful to preserve for reference.

"Translation of an Imperial Firman, bearing the Hatti Scherif, or autograph command of the Sultan, appropriating a portion of the annual tribute of Egypt to the payment of the interest and capital of the Turkish loan. (Hatti Scherif.) Be it acted upon accordingly. (Imperial Cypher.) Abdul Medjid Khan, son of Mahmoud, ever victorious. My vizier, the present Governor-general of Egypt, Mohamed Said Pasha, &c. (here follows the titles).—When my imperial decree shall reach thee, be it known that it has been unanimously decided, that, deduction made of the sum allotted to the Hedjaz, the remainder of the tribute of Egypt, amounting to 60,000 purses, which at the rate of twenty-two piastres and a half to the dollar, makes 1,333,333 pillar dollars and one-third (to be henceforward calculated at that value), shall be deposited in the Bank of England or of France every six months, as follows—viz., one-half of the aforesaid sum, amounting to 30,000 purses, shall be deposited in the Bank of England or of France on the 10th day of April, new style; and the other half, amounting also to 30,000 purses, on the 10th day of October, new style, of the year 1855, and so on, until the liquidation be complete, as a special offset against the interest and capital of the sum borrowed by virtue of a contract dated the 24th day of August, 1854, and under conditions therein stated, from the Baron Goldsmid and Mr. John Horsley Palmer, through the respectable merchants Black and Durand, according to my imperial decree; that the suitable partition of this sum of 60,000 purses between the two banks shall be discussed and settled on the spot between the two allied governments and my imperial ambassadors in London and Paris; and that until the full payment of the interest, as well as of the capital of the sum so borrowed, care shall be taken that the payments continue to be made invariably in the above manner. My imperial commands have, therefore, been issued for the execution thereof in the manner aforesaid; and, as this imperial firman is to be deposited in the aforesaid Bank of England, this my imperial order has been issued from my imperial chancery, authorizing thee to make payment in due time and season of the sums aforesaid, and has been sent to the proper quarter to be deposited in the aforesaid bank. When this matter becomes known to thee, thou wilt, in conformity with the judgment and intelligence which characterize thee, and in the manner aforesaid, make payment in due time and season into the aforesaid banks of London and Paris of 60,000 purses out of the aforesaid tribute, pursuant to the above command. Thus know thou, give thou full credence to my imperial cypher. Done in the first decade of the month Safer, 1271 (3rd decade October, 1854). Written in Constantinople, the well guarded.

London, 21st November, 1854. A true translation. J. W. REDHOUSE.

MEMOIR OF THE LATE MR. CHARLES GEACH, M.P.

EVEN in these stirring times, when each succeeding Gazette presents us with a long list of illustrious and gallant soldiers, whose lives, sacrificed at the altar of their country, will render their names famous in the page of history, a man like Charles Geach, the late Member for Coventry, cannot be allowed to pass from amongst us without a word or two beyond the brief entry contained in the Registrar's record of deaths.

The career of one who rises, by means of his own force of character, from a comparatively humble position in life to wealth, honour, and public station, must always be a matter of national interest. It is important in the way of example, and the influence it must necessarily exercise on the community in general. True, such occurrences are not so rare with us as they are in some other countries. Free institutions are congenial to the development of commercial enterprise; and commercial enterprise, directed with prudence and integrity, is generally found to be one of the readiest roads to fortune. But, as a rule, it is with fortune as with everything else—it must be sown before it can be reaped. There must be a nucleus of capital for wealth to gather round the seed of gold from which the harvest of riches is to be grown; and the instances where personal merit and individual character form the only stepping-stones to prosperity and distinction are not so frequent as to justify us in withholding from the category of remarkable men the names of those who, in the competition of life, achieve greatness by such means.

The subject of this memoir was born in Cornwall, in the year 1808, of an old and respectable Cornish family. In 1825, his uncle, Captain Gichard, who happened to be Mayor of Penryn, and returning officer at the election at which Mr. Freshfield, the Bank Solicitor, was elected as the representative of that town, obtained, through that gentleman's influence, an appointment for his young nephew as a junior clerk in the Bank of England. This was the first round of the ladder in Mr. Geach's career; and though the salary was small, he had the good sense to retain his footing until he made it the means of ascending higher. While engaged in this subordinate capacity, his methodical habits, probity, and aptitude for business, did not fail to attract the attention of his superiors; and when the branch establishment at Birmingham was formed, under Sir George Nicholls, young Mr. Geach was offered and accepted a post upon its staff. Here, too, he acquitted himself to the entire satisfaction of his principals; but, after several years of service, he grew dissatisfied with the slow course of promotion; and, being conscious of his own powers, and possessing a mind that courted rather than shrunk from responsibility, he became especially dissatisfied with that policy of the Bank directors which shut out from those of their servants who entered in the subordinate departments all prospect of rising to situations of the highest trust.

In the meanwhile, the intimate knowledge of the theory and practice of banking, which Mr. Geach had acquired in the course of an experience extending now over ten or twelve years, his thorough business habits and strict integrity, had been remarked by others than those whom he had so long and so well served; and when, in the year 1836, the Midland Banking Company was formed, the important and very responsible office of manager of that establishment was tendered for his acceptance. This was an offer far too flattering to be rejected; and accordingly we find Mr. Geach in that year installed as the head of the Midland Bank—an appointment in which he had full scope for the exercise of his extraordinary administrative talents. His quick perception, foresight, and accurate judgment, enabled him to carry on the business of that establishment with equal boldness and skill; and under his able management the Midland speedily became one of the most prosperous of our provincial banking companies. In such a position Mr. Geach naturally commanded great influence with the wealthy and enterprising community with whom he was brought into daily contact; and, in 1843-4, he was elected an alderman of the borough of Birmingham. In this capacity, his peculiar ability for governing—and more particularly his intimate and practical knowledge of finance—were brought to bear with the greatest advantage to the municipality of which he had become so important a member.

It was about this period that Mr. Geach became known to the general public. In the anti-corn law agitation he took a very prominent part; and the powerful aid afforded by the Birmingham free-traders to the Anti-Corn Law League, was mainly owing to the perfect organisation with which his administrative powers enabled him to bring the public opinion of that town to operate upon the general result. In 1847 he was elected mayor of Birmingham; and shortly after this we find him from time to time participating in the discussions at the meetings of the various railway companies with which he had become connected, either as a director or a shareholder. On these occasions, his observations were always marked by a consciousness of being fully master of the subject upon which he spoke. He seldom failed to afford information; and his simple earnestness of manner, devoid of anything approaching to assumption, not unfrequently carried conviction to his hearers.

In 1851, he was first returned to Parliament. On the elevation of the late Sir George Turner to the Chancery bench, a deputation of the electors of Coventry waited upon Mr. Geach, and invited him to become a candidate for the vacant seat in the representation of that borough. He consented, and was returned. At the general election of 1852, he was again elected, though against a strong opposition.

So wide was the grasp of Mr. Geach's intellect, and so active was he, both mentally and physically, that he experienced but little difficulty in extending his personal superintendence to a number of private speculations in which he had engaged. Besides carrying on the management of the Midland Bank, he was a partner in the Wed-

nesbury Patent Axle Works, the Park-gate Iron Works, a manufacturing concern at Dudley, and a contractor for railway works. When, however, he superadded to these varied occupations the duties of a Member of Parliament, he soon found that, in order to devote the time and attention to the business of legislation which was expected from the representative of a large manufacturing constituency, it was necessary to relieve himself from the most onerous of his other engagements. Accordingly, in the same year in which he was elected Member for Coventry, he resigned the appointment which he had for so many years filled with credit and honour to himself, and advantage to his proprietary—of chief manager of the Midland Bank; remaining, however, until his death, intimately associated with it in the capacity of managing director.

On his retirement, the shareholders testified their sense of the valuable services their manager had rendered to them, by presenting him with a costly service of plate; and his portrait, painted by Partridge—the celebrated artist—was placed in the board-room of the bank.

As a politician, Mr. Geach was a Liberal, in the truest sense of the term. Immediately on taking his seat in the House of Commons, he united himself with that body of practical Reformers who usually act under the leadership of Mr. Hume, but, like them, giving a general support to the present Government. Systematically opposed to class privileges and class restrictions of every kind, he was a free-trader on conviction, and a consistent advocate for the extension of political rights to all classes. He was not a frequent speaker in Parliament, and, when he did venture to address the House, it was always with great brevity. But, as he spoke generally upon subjects with which he was known to be practically acquainted, and always with perspicuity and clearness (though with a certain degree of hesitation, amounting at times almost to awkwardness), he was listened to with attention and respect. Nearly the longest speech he ever made in Parliament (and that extended only over some three or four minutes), was in the debate on the address in answer to the Queen's speech at the opening of the Session of 1852, when he rebuked a member for using the term, "upstart usurper," in reference to the present Emperor of France; and contended with becoming spirit, and amid the approving cheers of a large majority of the House, that a man who had been elected by the suffrages of a free people as their ruler, and in whose favour 4,000,000 of votes had been recorded at one election, and 7,000,000 at another, was at least entitled to be spoken of with respect in the representative assembly of a friendly nation. His later speeches in Parliament were directed against the proposal, in the Purity of Elections' Bill, to disfranchise the freemen, whose alleged venality he denied; the attempt to put down flags and processions at elections, which he stigmatized as an interference with the only means which the unenfranchised had of expressing their political opinions; and against the imposition of the penny stamp upon bankers' cheques.

Mr. Geach was very regular in his attendance upon his Parlia-

mentary duties ; and, to a casual observer, he appeared to possess a *physique* equal to the endurance of any amount of fatigue. But, though he was not on all occasions amongst the last to leave the House, towards the close of the past session it became pretty evident that the continuous day and night sittings, and the total change of habit—a penalty which every member who enters Parliament late in life must pay—in addition to other important engagements, were telling upon him, as upon many others in failing health. After the prorogation, he sought to recruit by a sojourn in the Highlands, and, it is said, derived some benefit from the change. But, on his return home, he was seized with intermittent diarrhœa, and subsequently with an affection of the right leg, from which he had suffered before, and which, in the weak state he was reduced to, speedily assumed an aspect so formidable as to preclude all hopes of relief ; and, on Wednesday, the 1st of November, his sufferings terminated with death, at the comparatively premature age of forty-six.

Of Mr. Geach, it may be said that he combined great energy and decision of character with much generosity and simplicity. The high position to which he attained, the wealth and honours which, by the exercise of his talents, he acquired, never betrayed him into anything like ostentation or pride. He was in Parliament, as at the bank, the railway board, and in every position in which he moved, the same plain man of business. He was always in earnest in what he did ; and, to that circumstance, probably, he was indebted for a career of undeviating success rarely equalled.

At the time of his death he was a director of the Crystal Palace Company, a director of the Manchester, Sheffield, and Lincolnshire, and of the Shrewsbury and Birmingham Railway Companies. He was also one of the concessionaires of the Western of France Railway, the success of which is a proof of the soundness of his judgment and administrative skill.

He leaves behind him a widow and four children, the eldest of whom, a son, attained his majority but a few months since.

RENEWAL OF THE BANK CHARTER.*

To the Editor of the Bankers' Magazine.

AT a period like the present, when public attention is awakened by the appearance from day to day of so many ably-written articles in most of the leading periodicals and newspapers, on the all-important subject which forms the title of this communication, and as the question is very likely soon to engage all the best thoughts, energy and attention which the legislature can bestow, when called on to deal with it effectually, I am willing to hope that you will deem what I am now about to convey to you, as respects the subject in question, not undeserving the space of a few pages in your valuable and widely-extended magazine.

LOOKING, then, with an eye of impartiality and discrimination to

* NOTE.—While giving publicity to this paper it must not be supposed that we wholly coincide with the views propounded.—ED. B. M.

the productions above alluded to, it will be, I think, discernible, that the system of our paper currency, as its issue and circulation at present exist, the organisation of which, dating from the last renewal of the Bank Charter Act in 1844, has its advocates or opponents just in that proportion or ratio as the interests of the one or the other writer may demand. But in order to arrive at a thorough knowledge of the working of the system—of the abuses which have crept in, or the evasions resorted to, for the purpose of frustrating the intention of the Act of Renewal—it may not be useless to revert to a period rather more remote—to that of the panic in the years 1825–26—the disastrous results which then ensued calling forth, for the first time, the best energies of the Government of that day to so deal with and reform the system of the paper currency as it then stood, and had for so long a period existed, as to prevent a future recurrence of so much ruin and mischief as the above panic, 1825–26 had unfortunately occasioned.

The elder of those men who stand as the heads and chiefs of the monied and trading interest, will no doubt recollect that the first step taken by the Government of 1826 was entirely to extinguish the circulation of the small or one-pound notes, as they had been previously issued throughout the United Kingdom, with the exception of Ireland and Scotland—a step in every way judicious as a protection to the poorer classes, amongst whom such a wide spread of ruin and misery had resulted from their use, these classes having in the panic of 1825 been found to be the more especial holders of the small or one-pound notes, which became valueless, from the several failures of those banks or bankers who had issued them. The larger, or notes that were higher in value, finding their way into the possession of those who could better afford to bear such losses—the richer or middle classes.

It was soon, however, discovered that the monied, trading, and general interests of the country severely suffered from the too sudden withdrawal of the one-pound notes—an example which should surely teach this lesson, that, if in dealing with any measure or question, judgment, foresight, or great consideration is required, it is pre-eminently so on the part of Government, when legislating on the system of the national currency, whether as regards paper or metal. The panic of 1825 likewise afforded a clear proof of the great liability to abuse of the manufacture of paper money, and showed how much confidence had been misplaced in those individuals or companies who, from their want of solvency, means, or affluence, were plainly never authorised to hold the important position of being issuers or circulators of money for the use of the general community—a fact which escaped discovery until too late to remedy the mischief, from the want of timely or proper scrutiny.

The remedy applied, as was supposed, to eradicate the evil, in the too sudden withdrawal of the one-pound notes, proved quite as baneful, unfortunately, as the disease. The desired effect would have been doubtless more readily attained, had a wider allowance of time been

granted for such a withdrawal—say, a few years ; placing the issuers of such one-pound notes under the same restriction to which all banks of issue are now subjected—that of publishing the amount of their circulation weekly in the *London Gazette*.

“Out of evil good cometh :” so with the panic of 1825 ; the disastrous results which then ensued being so far compensated by a clear success of all that had been previously unsound or illegitimate in the conducting of banking operations, and by the check which was placed, by the intervention of Government, on the future paper circulating medium. It may, perhaps, be here briefly introduced, that, during the last century, and especially in war times, the occupation or calling of a banker was not the only one invested with the privilege of adding to the circulating medium ; tokens or money-pieces being issued by tradesmen and shop keepers : but this is an usage quite extinct in the present day.

Amongst other advantages emanating from the panic of 1825, may be enumerated the increased value and respectability of all the surviving firms or banking companies who weathered that storm. The men composing most of these firms—to resume—had been and were eminent in their respective localities or districts for their great wealth and connexion—not confining the use of their names and capital to banking operations only, but, as members of other great local undertakings, aided their fellow-countrymen by promoting a vast extent of labour and industry throughout the breadth and length of the land. The circulation of the one-pound notes, added, of course, great facilities to the operations of the country banker generally, and enabled him to extend a vast accommodation to every class of which his connection and customers was composed—such as clothiers, agriculturists, iron-masters, manufacturers, merchants, &c., &c. ; and these, forming the channel into which most of the issue of the one-pound or small notes flowed, for the payment of wages, &c., were fatally affected on the withdrawal of these notes. The banks being accustomed so to issue them, on their extinction, not longer considering it worth their trouble and attention to keep open their doors, the accommodation of these banks was, of necessity, in turn withheld from these bodies of agriculturists, merchants, manufacturers, and others, who had so long experienced it, and who, consequently, could no longer dispense employment to the thousands they discharged ; and thence the extent of emigration witnessed in those years closely succeeding the panic of 1825, and from which some estimate of the injury then wrought may be derived.

It has been mentioned, that the circulation of small notes, as well as that of large ones, had not been interfered with in either Ireland or Scotland ; the excellence of the system of banking in Scotland at that day, as at the present, being so universally felt and acknowledged, that it was deemed prudent not to meddle with it in that part of the United Kingdom. It would, perhaps, seem out of place to advert here to the superiority of the Scottish over the English system ; but, to the advantages conferred by the Scottish banking practice,

must that country trace the high state of national and commercial prosperity to which it has arrived. This country, it may indeed be said, is scarcely less indebted for its welfare in trade and commerce to the banking community; but the chief difference of system, as constituted in the one country and the other, will be found in the extent of accommodation; the English system being more restricted in its circulation, and affected by other causes. Our operations are now, indeed, more approximating to the character of banking in Scotland; and we are attaining the benefits accruing from this since the application in England of the joint-stock principle to banking, which contributes, in a ten-fold degree, to extend, as far as possible, substantial progress in every description of national enterprise and industry.

Another great check on the private or local banking system, which was given about the period to which we refer, was the establishing, at the instigation of the Government, of branches by the Bank of England, in most of the leading towns—such as Liverpool Manchester, Birmingham, Bristol, Hull, Leeds, &c., &c,—an extent of Bank of England business greatly interfering with the profits and emoluments of the old-established banks in the several places where these branch banks were introduced. So little consideration was shown to the interests of the old establishments, and so much want of confidence displayed towards them by the newly-opened branches of the Bank of England, that, besides depriving them of an extent of connection and custom hitherto enjoyed by them, the circulation of private bank paper which found its way into these bank of England branches, was seldom held by the latter beyond a few hours—never over a single day. Thus, as the interests of the private banking system suffered, so, likewise, did the towns or districts in which they were situate—a great extent of patronage, custom, and expenditure, having been derived by these places from the wealthy and influential families of the men who comprised the firms of these private banks; and the patronage hitherto enjoyed was withheld on the retirement of a number of these old-established companies.

The Bank of England, as an establishment, the extent and magnitude of whose operations are felt and acknowledged in all parts of the habitable globe, is one of which every Englishman may well be proud; yet, standing, as it does, in importance, unique and unapproachable, it is not the bank of the State, but, similar in constitution to all other joint-stock properties, its proprietors being those who are the holders or possessors of Bank stock, which can, at any time, be transferred, like funded property in general, from one hand or name to another, and those proprietors are the sole participators in all the profits or emoluments derivable from its manifold operations, a great portion of which is comprised of the business attached to or connected with the State; and thus, as the depository of the vast accumulating funds of the Court of Chancery, of the Treasury, of the Customs, of the Excise, and of every other description of public revenue, the Bank has the advantage of all this capital to play and deal with, for the sole advantage of its own proprietors for the carrying out its vast opera-

tions as a banking company generally, in any way which the wisdom of its directors may suggest—men composed of the merchant-princes of the land, and who have earned for this establishment an eminence and repute which has never been attained by any other corporate body. This eminence has, at the same time, gained for it the trust reposed in its paper circulation, which is generally looked on as nothing short of national, from its title—Bank of England.

The banking community of this country may be separated into three classes or divisions—the Bank of England, the joint-stock banking companies, and the private banks or bankers. From these flow the present paper currency or circulating medium. Now, comparing the two latter classes with the former, they may be pronounced to be quite equal in extent, repute, and importance ; or, to make it more clearly understood, the joint-stock banking companies and the private banks of the kingdom altogether quite equal the Bank of England, and are, I would maintain, equally entitled to the privileges enjoyed by the Bank of England. Now, if this conclusion were simply acted on, it would put an end to all those ill feelings and jealousies which have sprung up in the minds of the banking community, arising, as it has already been shown, from the privileges bestowed on the one, at the hand of Government, to the prejudice and injury of the others.

Now, it is well worthy of consideration or question, whether it might not be advisable to restrict the Bank of England, like the rest of the banking interest, to its own private or singular operations only, and to deprive it of the exclusive privileges it has so long enjoyed as being the bankers for the State, transferring that privilege, wholly or in part, to a newly-created State Bank. But, it must first be asked, whether it would be practicable to carry out such a measure, so as to afford the same facilities to Government which it has hitherto possessed. The primary reply would seem to be that, when we see what has been done during the forty years' continuance of peace—in the introduction of steam, and so many other national reforms effected—the adoption of the penny postage system, and the wonderful application of the electric telegraph, &c. &c.—all alike condemned as visionary when first contemplated—the novelty and boldness of the scheme should form no barrier to its unbiassed consideration. Great advantages, I must maintain, are likely to be derived from the formation of so important and lucrative a branch of public service as is now suggested ; in one word, it is proposed that the State should become its own bankers. This, of course, could not be the work of a day ; but, in order to prevent the ruin and mischief which previously accrued from the too hasty decision in the case of the withdrawal of the one-pound notes, and without causing any immediate interruption to the paper currency as it now stands, a period of a few years will be required to accomplish what is now suggested, so as to consult the interest of all parties.

Paper, like metal, should not be allowed to be transformed into a circulating medium by any individual or body of men, for the use of an entire community. That privilege—of so vast importance, and, as

has been pointed out in the earlier part of this communication, so much abused—is denied in the case of the coinage of metal, save to the Royal Mint alone. Then, why should that which is merely the representative of the current coins of the realm—the one-pound and larger notes—be allowed to be manufactured or issued by any save one body alone, viz., that of the Bank of the State, from which the needful supplies should flow for the use of the community? And thus the banking commonwealth would be restricted from applying or resorting to any other source for the issue or circulation of the paper currency. This would be placing the Bank of England, as forming one class, on the same footing with the other classes of the banking interest. Complaints of which we now hear would then be put an end to—of any privileges unjustly dealt or afforded.

The business of the bank of the State should be restricted solely to the business of the State. It should not be allowed to extend or mix up its operations so as to interfere with those conducted by the rest of the banking community. It would, of course, become the depository for all the balances of the public revenues.—It would have, as in the case of the Bank of England now, the management of the debt, and the conducting and carrying out the payment of the dividends thereon.—It would have a reserve always at hand for the minister of the day; but a reserve not to be used save under the most exact and vigilant control.—It would have a serviceable tendency to regulate the exchanges, in the ebb and flow of the currency, both paper and metal being always within its control and jurisdiction. Like other departments of the public service, such as the Customs, Excise, Post-Office, &c., it would claim an establishment vast in extent and magnitude, composed of a board and staff of officers, under the guidance and control of the first-rate men of business of the age, and men equal in capacity and qualification to those who have attained such an eminence for the Bank of England. If, in its operations, it in any way kept pace, as respects emolument and profit, with the advantages derived from banking operations generally, such a newly-created department—a State Bank—would be found not to fall short of any of the other public departments. And the advantages thus derived, instead of flowing, as the profits emanating from the use and working of the national capital now do, into the hands of one particular body of men—the Bank stock proprietors—would accrue to the rightful participators—those who are alone entitled to the national gains, or the fruits of national enterprise—the Nation. H. L.

FRESH AMERICAN FORGERIES.

It was to have been hoped that the explosion of the Schuyler frauds, in connexion with the over issues of railway certificates, would have represented the greatest extent of villainy perpetrated in America, through the late excess of overtrading and speculation. The last mail, however, from California, has brought intelligence of the discovery of forgeries and frauds in San Francisco, of even a more

alarming character than those associated with the New York and Newhaven Company, which have been committed by an individual as high in reputation and position as Mr. R. Schuyler. The absence of all moral principle in dealings, coupled with the facilities for credit enjoyed throughout the States, will render foreigners very cautious how they invest their capital in the securities which have recently been so extensively negotiated. The attractions of six, ten, fifteen, or twenty per cent. sink into insignificance, compared with the security afforded against malversations of the alarming description which we have so recently witnessed. The failure of Mr. Henry Meiggs, and the subsequent exposure of his fraudulent dealings, will be best ascertained from a condensed narrative extracted from the Californian journals:—

On the 13th of October, a rumour circulated among business men in San Francisco, that Henry Meiggs, an old resident and well-known business man of our city, had failed, with liabilities to the amount of about 800,000 dols.; and on Saturday, several of the morning papers announced the failure. During Saturday forenoon, it became generally known that Mr. Meiggs, with his family and his brother, John G. Meiggs (elected city comptroller at the September election), were not to be found; and about noon it was discovered that they had sailed on Wednesday night out of the harbour, in the barque American, which had been cleared at the custom-house for "ports in the Pacific." This announcement caused a suspicion among parties who had loaned large sums of money to Meiggs on deposits of comptroller's warrants, as securities, that the warrants were not genuine. Dr. Crowell had received warrants to the amount of 15,000 dols. from Meiggs, as security for a loan of 6,000 dols., and discovered, by an examination of the comptroller's books, that the warrants were forged. Adams and Co. discovered that warrants for 40,000 dols., which they had received, were forged. William Neely Thompson and Co. discovered that a forged promissory note, purporting to be drawn by their house in favour of Meiggs, had been negotiated by him.

Messrs. Adams and Co. published an advertisement in the *Evening Journal* of Saturday, warning all persons against purchasing comptroller's warrants, until it was ascertained that the suspicion that Mr. Meiggs had forged large amounts of warrants was correct. The *Evening News* of the same day contained a notice from William Neely Thompson, that the note above referred to was a forgery. These notices created a great excitement in the city. The first forged warrant was presented at the comptroller's office at two p.m. on Saturday, and, at half-past four, when the office closed, 250,000 dols. had been brought in. Crowds of persons were collected in the streets, speaking of the failure and forgeries; and the brokers and bankers were busy in examining their comptroller's warrants, to see whether they were genuine or not. During the afternoon and evening, it was discovered that the forgeries of comptroller's warrants amounted to about 1,000,000 dols.; stock of the California Lumber Company, of which H. Meiggs was president, had been forged to the amount of 300,000 dols.; and his debts, incurred in regular business transactions, amount to about 800,000 dols. It is said, that country scrip has been forged by Meiggs, but the amount is not known.

The manner in which the forger managed to raise capital, with the least risk to himself, was to borrow money, pledging double the amount of warrants as security. In some cases, he pledged even a larger proportion of warrants. Many of these hypothecations were made as long as three months since, and care was taken to give them to the heavy banking houses, or to persons who were not likely to take the warrants out into the market. It appears that a

counterfeit plate or plates had been engraved for the purpose of striking off the blanks. Meiggs's house was searched on Saturday evening, and a number of forged warrants were discovered there. The effect of the failure and forgeries will be most injurious upon the business of the city. Confidence among the business men is weakened. Probably not less than two hundred persons who were, a week ago, considered to be sound for their engagements, are now broken, so far as they could be broken by the loss of their capital, which with some might be 1,000 dols., and with others 50,000 dols. Take it all in all, the forgery is one of the most extensive, bold and successful on record. During the week previous to his departure, he had been very busy in raising ready money for his stocks, and it is supposed that he carried off about 400,000 dols. in cash. It is said that a porter carried down to one of the wharves two heavy carpet bags, supposed to contain gold coin, to be carried off in a boat by him. He was accompanied by his wife and three children, and by his brother, John G. Meiggs. It is not yet known whether John Meiggs was concerned in any of the forgeries, although it is almost certain Henry must have had accomplices.

There is a good deal of speculation in regard to the destination of the culprit. It cannot possibly be to any portion of this continent, nor to the Sandwich Islands, nor to any of the large ports of China or Australia. There are too many Americans in all those places for a man so shrewd as Meiggs to venture within their reach. He has probably gone to some of the South Sea Islands, or to some of the smaller ports of Asia or Europe; but he is not safe while he is on earth—the news of his crime will have reached all the large ports of the world before him. The barque *American* was purchased of Abernethy, Clark, & Co., by Meiggs, on Monday, and was fitted up in elegant style. The captain of the vessel, when questioned about her, stated that she had been purchased by a couple of gamblers, who intended to take a pleasure cruise through the islands of the Pacific. On Tuesday afternoon Meiggs and his family rode out in a carriage on a pretended visit to San Mateo. When about three miles south of the city, they turned towards the bay, and took a boat for the *American*, which lay off in the bay. The *American* was towed out of the harbour on Wednesday night by a steam-tug, and made sail for the south-west. On Friday afternoon she was still in sight from Point Lobos, having been becalmed. On Saturday morning she was out of sight, but there was only a little wind. In the evening the U. S. surveying steamer *Active* was to have been sent in pursuit, but she was prevented by an accident from leaving the harbour. Meiggs was born in Catskill, N. Y., and lived for many years in Williamsburg, where he was long a member of the City Council. It is said that he became bankrupt in New York, and that when he was applied to here by some of his former creditors, he paid his debts. He arrived in San Francisco in July, 1849. In the fall of 1850 he was elected to the City Council from the First Ward, and again in the fall of 1851. This was the Jenny Lind council, and Meiggs gained a great deal of popularity by opposing the Jenny Lind purchase. In 1852 he was again elected, and again in 1853. He was a very bold speculator, and had three favourites for speculation—land, lumber, and music. He was the principal person in getting up the California Lumber Company, which erected a mill in 1852 at Mendocino, and from the works of which more than 2,000,000 feet of lumber are now brought monthly to this city. He built the Musical Hall, and made great efforts and many sacrifices to have excellent musical performances. He was, the day of his departure, one of the most popular men in the city, as a political and business man. He was the favourite candidate of many for the mayoralty, and stood a good chance to be elected to the office. These details partake more of the character of romance than of stern reality, but they will, in the main, be found correct.

THE FINANCES OF RUSSIA.

BY M. LEON FAUCHER.

AT the present day, says our author, in a recent treatise on this interesting subject, more than at any former period, war, organised upon a large scale, is principally a question of "Budget."—Science and civilisation have tended in a great measure to balance the other conditions of military success;—thus, every army alike may be said to preserve its traditions of bravery and discipline. The system of tactics also is everywhere pretty much the same, and the improvements effected in the various "means and appliances" of destruction, universally known and appropriated; the ascendancy, therefore, must ultimately remain with that nation which is able to bring into operation the most formidable resources, and finds itself capable of sustaining the contest the longest.

In proof of his assertion, he appeals to the example afforded by England at an epoch when, after resisting the expansive genius of the French revolution, she held in check, by means of subsidised Europe, the greatest conqueror of modern times. To explain the events of 1814 and 1815, it is sufficient to remark, that France, after the most gigantic efforts, found herself sooner exhausted of men than her rival was of money.

The war in the East may scarcely be said to have commenced, and the Governments have already become borrowers. Turkey, after renouncing, from some unintelligible scruples, a loan concluded upon somewhat disadvantageous terms, but which served, nevertheless, to liquidate her most pressing embarrassments, is at the present moment looking in every direction in quest of lenders.* The Russian Government, after feeling the pulse of the different markets, finds itself reduced to the odious and sterile expedient of a forced loan. Prussia is an applicant for £4,000,000 sterling. France, by means of a public subscription, and paying nearly 5 per cent. for the money advanced, has just succeeded in raising £10,000,000. Austria, after two previous loans, has opened a third, payable in five years, at the rate of £10,000,000 per annum. England alone has as yet avoided a direct appeal to its credit; but in lieu of increasing her funded debt, she has proportionately augmented her floating one. In this manner, a measure being afforded of their respective forces, we are enabled to prejudice, and even to announce with some degree of certainty in comparing the financial resources of the belligerents, the issue of the crisis upon which Europe is about to enter. It is a species of comparative anatomy exercised upon the elements of impost and credit. It will be in the recollection of our readers that at the period of Prince Menschikoff's departure upon his mission to Constantinople, the Cabinet of St. Petersburg was concentrating several *corps d'armée* upon its southern frontiers. Levees of men were everywhere going forward with the utmost privacy and dispatch; whilst the loan concluded at London a short time previously, in spite of the prophetic denunciations of Mr. Cobden, furnished for all these preparations an important reserve. The Russian Government was the only one that had made provision beforehand either of men or money. Incredible, however, as it may appear, if judged of by the result, the efforts thus made by the Russian Government for the commencement of the campaign, have served at the same time completely to exhaust it. Three conscriptions have recently followed each other in rapid succession. Supposing that 300,000 serfs have thus been raised over and above the ordinary enlistment, it would amount to an impost of nearly £12,000,000 sterling levied upon the landed property of the country, exclusive of their equipment,

* A loan has since been concluded by this Power, upon terms with which our readers are doubtless acquainted.

carried to the account of the nobles, and which represents an additional charge of £2,000,000. In proportion to the number of hands withdrawn from the cultivation of the soil, the amount of produce necessarily becomes diminished, and the scarcity of labour thus occasioned for the purposes of agriculture, must only add to the present excessively high price of provisions. Russian commerce, deprived of the important advances which it was accustomed annually to receive from England, amounting at the lowest computation to £5,000,000 sterling,* has, in addition, lost its best markets, since the combined fleets have succeeded in hermetically sealing up the ports in the Baltic and Black Seas.

Exchange has fallen upwards of 20 per cent., and the value of the silver rouble declined from 3s. 2d. to 2s. 5d.† The exportation of gold is prohibited, failures are everywhere occurring in rapidly increasing succession, and, should the war be prolonged, in a short time there will not be a single counting-house left open in St. Petersburg.

In addition to its ordinary resources, the Russian Government has expended—

1st—The sums which remained disposable from the proceeds of the last loan.

2nd—The funds which it had invested temporarily in France, in England, and in Holland.

3rd—The 30 millions of roubles (equal to about four millions and a half sterling); by which amount it has diminished the metallic reserve deposited in the fortress of St. Petersburg, which formed the basis or guarantee of the paper circulation.

4th—The 24 millions of roubles (£950,000) which represent the new Treasury or Exchequer bonds, issued subsequent to January, 1853.

* *Note by Translator.*—This would scarcely appear to be the fact.—See statement in *The Times*, of 18th September last, of which the following is an extract.—“British or neutral vessels are at liberty to embark as much Russian produce or property as they can at Memel, Dantsic, or any other port not under blockade. There is nothing clandestine in this trade, and it has accordingly been largely resorted to. The mercantile houses of French and English traders carrying on business in the Russian ports in time of peace, have opened branch establishments in the adjacent neutral ports, and we are informed that an augmentation of about 20 to 25 per cent. covers the difference between the direct and indirect trade. This difference is probably chiefly paid by the consumer. Under this system the advances of English capital for the purchase of Russian produce in the country will probably be made to a large extent during this autumn and winter.”

† *Note by Translator.*—A considerable modification has recently been effected in the state of the Russian exchanges, and the value of the silver rouble. The following is the substance of some very interesting remarks on this point, contained in the *Economist* of 30th September :—

“Exchange at St. Petersburg upon London has risen from a discount of 20 per cent. to nearly par; and the value of the rouble, which, under the first influences of the war, had risen to 32 pence, is now exactly at par, or 38 pence. A further rise of one penny, or even less, will turn the exchange in favour of St. Petersburg; so that, in spite of all law to the contrary, gold will again be drained from the Bank of England, to replenish the reserves in the fortress of St. Peter and St. Paul, in the Russian capital.

“By no possible interference on the part of Government, or even of private merchants, could such a consequence be avoided. The action of the exchanges on London is never direct, but exerted through the medium of numerous Continental bourses, over which we have no power or influence.”

N.B.—We have no means of ascertaining if in the 24 millions of roubles—the number of which is borrowed from the *Moniteur*—is included the series of Treasury bonds put into circulation in the kingdom of Poland by a ukase of 28th April, amounting to £800,000.

5th—The various loans made to the public offices, exact amount unknown, but which must have been considerable, judging from the fact revealed by the *Moniteur* of 4th June, that the Lombard of Moscow* had lent, at one time, upwards of £3,000,000; and also from the announcement which appeared in all the journals, that the Russian Treasury had laid its hands upon the reserve, amounting to £1,100,000, formed from the profits of the landed Bank at Varsovie.

6th and lastly—The voluntary contributions or gifts, estimated at one-tenth of the whole revenue, irrespective of a sum of £3,000,000, which, if the official publications are to be believed, the clergy have deposited upon the altar of their country.

But this is not all. Whether from a desire to husband its resources for the exigencies which it foresees to be impending, or from more immediate and pressing considerations, the Russian Government has endeavoured to negotiate in the foreign markets a loan of 50 millions of roubles (nearly £16,000,000 sterling). Finding, however, no customers either at London or Paris, and, subsequently, also repelled from Amsterdam and Berlin (in the latter case, it must be confessed, more from a feeling of mistrust, than from other and more patriotic considerations), it has converted this appeal to the benevolence of the Continental capitalists into an obligatory charge upon all the provinces of the empire. This forced loan, or, more properly speaking, act of confiscation, is by no means an isolated proceeding, but seems to form part of a general system, the *razzia* being extended even to things of religion itself. It is said, for instance, that the sacred vessels of Czeustochowa, to the value of a million of roubles, have been seized; and thus, paradoxical as it may appear, the Catholic churches are despoiled, in order to defray the expenses of a crusade undertaken in the name of the Greek rite.

Hence, computing the balance of the loan negotiated in London, and the funds invested in foreign countries, at £3,000,000 sterling; the proceeds of the voluntary gifts and confiscations at £4,000,000; supposing also that £8,000,000 of the forced loan may have been already subscribed for; and that the sums recently borrowed from the Lombards and other banks do not exceed an additional £4,000,000; the Russian government will have realised, in less than eighteen months (in addition to its ordinary resources), a sum of about £28,000,000 sterling.†

The Treasury bonds in circulation already amount to more than £12,000,000; it will become very difficult, therefore, to increase the issue in a country where the amount of floating capital must necessarily be very inconsiderable. In countries where this description of property has undergone the fullest development, the Treasury debt, represented by the amount of bonds in circulation, rarely attains so high a figure.

The reserve contained in the fortress, which, according to the *Moniteur*, was still upwards of £18,000,000 in the month of March, may admit, it is true, of ulterior deductions, but this resource will not long be available; a

* *Note by Translator.*—The Lombards is an immense Land and Banking Company, guaranteed by the State, and holding in pawn five millions of the serfs.

† Without reckoning the proceeds of the requisitions of all kinds imposed upon Moldavia and Wallachia, which M. Ubcini estimates at £2,000,000 sterling.

fresh drain of thirty millions of roubles (four millions and three-quarters sterling), made upon this grand metallic dépôt, would peril the stability of the circulation, already in a great measure compromised. It must not be forgotten that the paper rouble, which possessed originally the same value as the silver rouble, i. e. 3s. 2d. of English money, has been successively depreciated by the superabundant issues to the extent of 75 per cent., the paper rouble at the present time being worth no more than nine pence halfpenny. Another step, and this money will encounter the same fate as the "assignats." *

The public revenue of Russia was estimated by statisticians some years since at £24,000,000 to £26,000,000 sterling, including the auriferous products of Siberia and the Oural, and much progress has not since been effected in a country where the prohibitive system in operation contributes as much perhaps as serfdom itself to render the amount of national wealth stationary. Notwithstanding the *Moniteur*, upon data the exactitude of which has doubtless been verified by the French government, values the annual receipts of the Muscovite treasury at upwards of £30,000,000 sterling, half of this sum being furnished by the duties upon brandy and the Customs. It further supposes that the war, and the consequent blockade of the two seas, have been productive of a deficit of fifty millions of roubles, or (calculating the rouble at par) nearly £8,000,000 sterling in the product of these two branches of impost. I should not, however, be disposed to estimate the loss at so considerable a figure. It is true that the presence of the combined fleets in the Baltic and Black Seas has had the effect of paralyzing the exterior commerce of the kingdom, the value of which, in exports alone, exceeded £12,000,000 sterling; but it must be admitted at the same time, that a considerable portion of the commercial traffic has been transferred from the sea to the land frontier, and by this means a portion of the receipts retrieved, which would have been otherwise entirely lost to the Treasury.† So sensible is the Government of this fact, that, in order to attract commerce in this direction, it has just effected a reduction in the custom duties; necessity having, in this instance, suggested to the Emperor a measure entirely at variance with his political antecedents.

Under all the circumstances, therefore, there exist no just grounds for supposing that the public revenue has decreased by more than an eighth, or £4,000,000 sterling.

In proportion to the number of men, the Russian army costs as much to maintain as any other. The force necessary for the defence of such an enormous territory cannot be estimated at less than 800,000 to 900,000 men, equivalent, by a moderate calculation, to an annual expense of £36,000,000 sterling; add to this the cost of the other branch of the service, consisting of 40 ships of the line, with numerous accessory smaller vessels, and the sum extends to nearly £40,000,000 sterling. Suppose, now, that Russia were to

* Note by Translator.—"Assignats," paper money of the French republic.

† Note by Translator.—The following is from the *Economist*, of the date previously referred to:—"Russia imports of British produce only to the amount of about £1,200,000 per annum, whilst we import of Russian produce to the annual value of not less than £6,000,000 or £7,000,000 sterling. This large balance in favour of Russia has hitherto been settled by the indirect trade of this country. Although the trade of Russia has been carried on at a greater cost, yet the actual quantity of produce exported in 1854 has fallen very little short of that of former years (an indirect route through Prussia being afforded, of which Memel became the port of shipment); at the same time, also, the imports of foreign and colonial produce (by which we were in the habit of settling our account) have fallen off almost altogether."

deduct only £8,000,000 from her revenue, to meet the interest of her debt, and the expenses of the civil administration, the sum of £23,000,000 would still be necessary annually to enable the Government to carry on the contest.

Admitting that Russia may continue for some time longer to furnish the men, will she be also able to provide the money?

Is the population of the empire in a condition to pay every year to the treasury an additional and extraordinary tribute of £20,000,000 sterling? The whole issue of the war is comprehended in this question.

The amount of taxation which a country is enabled to support, depends entirely upon the amount of national wealth. The amelioration of the soil follows the progress which has been effected in the condition of the people;—agriculture is in Russia equally destitute of capital and method, and consequently produces little; the cultivation of the soil is abandoned to a community of slaves. If Russia is desirous of participating in the commercial progress effected by the nations of western Europe, she must, in the first instance, emancipate her labour. Industrial liberty is essential to any great or permanent improvement in the productive energies of a nation. Property may be said to exist in Russia only in name. Wages is an exceptional phenomenon, and confined almost exclusively to the large towns, such as Moscow and St. Petersburg. The interior organisation of society is communism without its equality—a species of hierarchical communism; the serfs are the slaves of the nobles, and the nobles in their turn (who may be regarded as proprietors of the peasants more than of the land) are the serfs of the Crown, which exalts or abases them according to its good will and pleasure. There is in the Russian empire, as in the Roman at the period of its decadence, only one proprietor* and that is the Emperor.

The revenues of the state have suffered a serious diminution by the war, and ukases for the future will be but of little assistance; no margin therefore exists for the augmentation of taxation. Indirectly to attempt it would be only to enact a higher premium upon fraud. Recent circumstances have served to exemplify the truth of this. It is known that the revenues of the Siberian mines have considerably fallen off since the increase of the amount of royalty, or dues exacted by the Crown. Should the surcharge be levied directly, the recovery of the impost would be impossible.

Supposing, now, that the Russian exchequer was in sufficiently good odour among capitalists, let us next proceed to examine if it would be in a position at the present moment, in default of taxes, to demand of them the 16 or 20 millions necessary for prosecuting the war during the year 1855. Among all the governments who have figured from time to time in the money market as borrowers, the Russian cabinet appears to be distinguished for the comparatively limited use which it has hitherto made of its credit. This moderation, however, is only apparent. Without doubt, the national debt, both funded and floating, does not together amount to more than £64,000,000 sterling, a sum which scarcely amounts to twice the revenue of the state,* whilst the capital of the public debt in France is four times greater than the annual receipts, and in England at least twenty times; but the public debt in Russia is by no means the most considerable of the obligations which, in matters of finance,

* The Russian debt is constituted as follows:—

Dutch loan (old and new)	54,149,000 florins.
Debt of the interior (terminable)	110,867,055 silver roubles.
Stocks, home and foreign (interminable)..	223,861,476 ditto.
Miscellaneous	5,280,000 pounds sterling.

Which makes a total of about 401,552,111 silver roubles, or £64,000,000 sterling.

the Government has taken under its charge. The institutions of credit are not compatible with despotism: the monopoly of power leads inevitably to that of everything else. The various banks of issue and deposit, the Lombards, loan societies, savings banks, founding hospitals and *monts de piété*—in a word, all the great establishments of credit in Russia—are administered under the control, or with the guarantee (absolute and universal) of the state. According to the last *compte rendu* addressed to the Emperor by the minister of finance, the sums deposited with these various establishments (bearing interest and resumable at call or upon short notice) amounted on 1st January, 1853, to 806,083,233 silver roubles (about £128,000,000 sterling). This statement is confined to Russia alone.

In Poland it is known a special establishment exists which has received on deposit a further sum of five millions pounds and a half. The danger of such a position of affairs arises not only from the amount of capital at any moment resumable, but from the fact, that by far the greater portion of it is invested in the form of loans upon real estate, repayable at long periods, and by annuities. The *Moniteur* asserts that the Lombards have in this way lent 463 millions of roubles (£74,000,000 sterling); but the *compte rendu* does not appear to warrant such an interpretation. In point of fact, the Russian minister confines himself to the statement that “the Lombards have received on deposit 415 millions of roubles, and have granted credits to the amount of 463 millions as well to private individuals as to the public administration.” The Loan Bank and various charitable institutions lend also on mortgage; the credits of the former alone amounted in 1852 to 326,456,474 roubles (about £52,000,000); and the *compte rendu* informs us that the manorial lands upon which these advances were made, included the number of 634,651 peasants. The loans granted upon mortgage of real property, as well by the Lombards as the other banks, appear, then, to represent a sum considerably exceeding 463,000,000, roubles; and the *Moniteur*, instead of exaggerating the evil, has rather extenuated it. The *Siecle* (28th June, 1854) appears to be nearer the truth when it says, “of the £128,000,000 sterling received by the Russian banks, a sum of little more than £3,000,000 only is represented by commercial effects, or by merchandise hypothecated as security; the remaining £125,000,000 having been employed in advances to the treasury, or upon mortgage repayable in thirty-six years. These are the terms of the *compte rendu*; but at St. Petersburg an opinion is privately but very generally entertained, that the Government has for a long time past applied the greater part of this enormous sum to its personal necessities. It is, however, of little consequence; the funds which may not have been so appropriated being represented by annuities at long periods, the treasury will not the less have to support the weight and embarrassment of more immediate demands.”

To arrive at a right conclusion on the subject, it is proper to remark that the credit establishments which had received upon deposit in 1853, eight hundred and six millions of roubles, had at the same time loaned eight hundred and ninety-three millions. The difference between these two sums, say eighty-seven millions (or nearly £14,000,000 sterling) represents without doubt the capital of these institutions derived from their profits and reserves. The *compte rendu* affords no explanation of the amount of capital possessed by the Lombards, but it indicates that of the Loan Bank, the Bank of Commerce and the charitable societies, which, together, amount to 36,530,000 roubles (about £5,800,000 sterling). Thus, of the sums lent which must necessarily be carried to the assets of these establishments, their capital constitutes scarcely the tenth part; in truth, therefore, they may be said to borrow a floating debt and to lend a funded one. In a financial point of view, it is difficult to conceive an operation less regular, or a situation more perilous.

The Russian banks are indebted to the public the enormous sum of £128,000,000 sterling. Is the repayment of such an amount physically possible? The Muscovite empire does not contain in circulation either paper or specie sufficient for that purpose. Admitting the solvency of the banks the medium of exchange, the money itself would inevitably be wanting. But the banks are not solvent, or the state which has guaranteed their operations any more so.

The loan establishments have no reserves in their treasuries; the sums invested in them have been alienated by the employment to which they have been put. The Lombards have buried their floating capital in the earth. It may be said that the banks have their recourse, in the first instance, against the state; no doubt the state is their first as well as their principal debtor, for, unless the advances made to the Government have not been superseded by a mortgage upon the domains of the Crown, a circumstance about which the *compte rendu* has omitted to give any explanation, the state having borrowed upon account current, is bound also to repay upon demand. Thus the floating debt of the loan establishments, amounting to upwards of £120,000,000 sterling, is, in point of fact, either directly or guaranteed, the debt of the Russian government.

Independent of other obligations which it has publicly underwritten, the Treasury of the empire owes to the depositors in this gigantic savings bank, the sum of £120,000,000. The floating debts of all the other European states, added together, would not represent half the amount. The Russian government is without the rules and traditions of political economy. Little astonishment need therefore be excited at the circumstance of its having constituted itself into a bank of issue, or at the liberality with which it has saturated the circulation with its paper. Gold and silver money in Russia has become nearly banished from commerce. The *billets de credit*, which descend to sums of the lowest amount, and serve all the purposes of bank notes, are issued (repayable on presentation) by the Government. On the 1st January, 1855, the amount of these *billets* was 311,375,581 silver roubles (about £49,000,000 sterling), representing a sum equal to the united circulation of the banks of France and England. In order to guarantee from further depreciation this money, already too superabundant, the Emperor Nicholas, with a prudence of which his present policy tends to disturb the calculation, had amassed in the fortress of St. Peter and St. Paul, bullion to the amount of 146,000,000 of roubles (upwards of £23,000,000 sterling).^{*} The sum of the specie, therefore, compared to that of the notes in circulation, presented the proportion of 47 to 100. It was for a considerable period the greatest depôt of the precious metals which existed in Europe. The reserve of the Bank of France has seldom exceeded, except at irregular intervals, and for short periods, the limit of £24,000,000 sterling.

In March, 1854, says the *Moniteur*, a drain of thirty millions of roubles had already been made upon this metallic reserve. Supposing (an event, by the way, which is extremely improbable,) that the number of notes in circulation remained the same, the ratio between the two would be reduced to 37 to 100; at the present time, it does not, perhaps, exceed 30, or even 25 per cent., and is still decreasing—the evil must be seriously aggravated in default of publicity—the fear of danger, when the existence of it is known, without the means of measuring its extent, soon degenerates into panic. In 1852, the Russian Treasury had received, against the amount of notes which it issued, 15,322,794

^{*} More correctly speaking, 146,794,848 silver roubles, of which 130,179,313 was in specie or bullion, and 16,614,929 in public funds. The metallic reserve was not, therefore, in reality more than £20,626,666 sterling, which has since been reduced to about £16,000,000.

roubles in specie; it had, at the same time, redeemed in gold or silver the notes presented for payment to the extent of 7 978,341 roubles: its reserve in cash was therefore augmented on the transactions of the year, by more than seven millions roubles (about £1,100,000). In 1853, in consequence of the general alarm occasioned by the apprehension of the war, the payments by the Treasury exceeded the amount of specie received by it. In 1854, as we have seen, the notes became depreciated. In 1855, should the war, and the immeasurable expenses attendant upon it, be prolonged, it will be necessary to have recourse to an expedient, the invariable precursor of bankruptcy, viz., the suspension of payments in specie.

The floating debt of the Russian empire, which equals or falls little short of the whole consolidated debt of France, is composed of three distinct elements. The treasury, in the first place, is indebted for the amount of Exchequer-bonds, redeemable at determinate periods, to the extent of nearly £13,000,000. The time indicated for their repayment being generally eight years, an eighth only of the issue, a sum of about £1,600,000, becomes annually exigible. To these succeed the *billets de credit*, or bank notes, repayable to bearer on demand, to the amount of about £50,000,000 sterling. And lastly, by virtue of its guarantee, and under the title of Loan Establishments, it owes to the depositors in these institutions the fabulous sum of £128,000,000 sterling, also convertible. The floating debt, under this triple form, approaches therefore to £200,000,000 sterling. To form something like an estimate of the magnitude of such an engagement, it may be stated that, to honour a bill of exchange for an equal amount, there would be scarcely sufficient coined money, either in gold or silver, in the whole world.

The Muscovite empire has justly been placed without the pale of European credit. The public treasury has literally absorbed all the personal property of the country; and in the opinion of the Russians themselves, the shock consequent upon the first reaction upon its credit, will resemble that of an earthquake itself, in which all persons and property will be overwhelmed.

Without straining the deductions to be derived from the above statement of facts, or predicting for the enemy those catastrophes which appear, notwithstanding, more than probable, we are justified in affirming that Russia has not the means at command of sustaining two campaigns. If, by means of paper payments and consequent sacrifice and bankruptcy of all the great credit establishments, the Government of the Czar should succeed in surmounting this difficulty, it would be a supreme and final effort. At the third campaign, the Russian empire, humiliated and disorganised, would not be in a position successfully to resist a revolution from within, any more than an invasion from without.

TRADE OF THE UNITED KINGDOM.

THE Board of Trade returns for the month ending the 10th of October were issued on the 8th November, and continue to show a gradual contraction of trade, the falling off in the declared value of our exportations, as compared with the corresponding month of last year, being £754,952. This diminution seems attributable to the reduction in the Australian and American demand, and is not to be confounded with the consequences of the war. It was in October last year and the few preceding months that the mania for consigning goods to Australia was at its height; and, owing to this, the item of haberdashery alone, which includes ready-made clothing, exhibits a decrease of £209,512 in the present

return, although, compared with October, 1852, it would give an increase of £106,000. The demand for saddlery and other articles of leather has been affected in like manner, while that for metals and machinery and for linen and woollen goods has been exposed to the double influence of the check to the colonial trade and the money pressure at New York. Still, even under these circumstances, the return is only unsatisfactory in contrast with what was with the excitement of last year, since, compared with the same month of 1852, it would present an increase of nearly £700,000. Contrary to what might have been expected, cotton goods do not appear on the unfavourable side, but in future reports they will be likely to show a falling off. The subjoined table gives the exact increase or decrease in the shipments under each head :—

DECLARED VALUE OF EXPORTATIONS.

Month ending Oct. 10.	1853.	1854.	Increase.	Decrease.
Alkali—viz., soda	£43,299	£59,979	£16,680	—
Beer and ale	97,740	98,350	610	—
Butter	59,475	49,655	—	£9,820
Candles	17,898	20,470	2,572	—
Cheese	18,970	6,736	—	12,234
Coals and culm	180,498	226,319	45,821	—
Cordage and cables	27,729	27,741	12	—
Cotton manufactures	2,245,999	2,328,443	82,444	—
Cotton yarn	546,436	577,059	30,623	—
Earthenware	118,762	129,467	10,705	—
Fish	140,521	133,831	—	6,690
Glass manufactures	68,419	60,494	—	7,925
Haberdashery and millinery	521,061	311,549	—	209,512
Hardwares and cutlery	392,168	379,906	—	12,262
Leather... ..	192,763	151,155	—	41,608
Linen manufactures	483,426	380,509	—	102,917
Linen yarn	118,043	72,259	—	45,784
Machinery	249,571	163,305	—	86,266
Metals	1,577,949	1,469,287	—	108,622
Oil and seeds	64,737	106,063	41,326	—
Painters' colours, &c.	38,706	39,306	600	—
Salt	29,531	27,838	—	1,693
Silk manufactures... ..	169,781	96,716	—	73,065
Silk, thrown	21,939	13,401	—	8,538
Silk, twist, and yarn	24,983	38,460	13,477	—
Soap	25,288	34,401	9,113	—
Stationery	72,921	78,855	5,934	—
Sugar, refined	25,305	5,707	—	19,598
Wool, sheep or lambs'	57,511	75,886	18,375	—
Woollen manufactures... ..	1,008,457	740,986	—	267,471
Woollen yarn	189,114	169,915	—	19,199
Total... ..	8,829,000	8,074,048		

The aggregate value of our exports during the first nine months of the year has been £67,727,198, against £66,987,729 in the corresponding period of 1853, showing an increase of £739,469, or a little more than 1 per cent., which has occurred in the following manner :—

Month ending	Increase.	Decrease.
February 5	—	£368,748
March 5	£344,784	—
April 5	993,572	—
May 5	—	747,527
June 5	409,457	—
July 5	934,908	—
August 5	377,105	—
September 5	—	449,130
October 10	—	754,952

As compared with the like period of 1852, there has been an increase of £13,335,760.

With regard to imported commodities, the most remarkable feature is the small amount of foreign grain and flour taken during the month, a long period having elapsed since the totals were so insignificant. Of rice also the quantity has been proportionably small. In other respects there is nothing to call for remark. The consumption of tea, sugar, tobacco, and spirits shows a slight increase, while in coffee, cocoa, wines, fruits, and spices there has been a little decline.

Subjoined are the quantities of provisions, &c., imported and taken for home consumption :—

Month ending Oct. 10.	Imported.		Home Consumption.	
	1853.	1854.	1853.	1854.
Grain, wheat, quarters	468,468	91,247	468,888	91,247
Grain of other descriptions, qrs ..	263,806	153,363	263,806	158,363
Indian corn, quarters	125,512	44,225	125,512	44,225
Flour and meal, cwt.	464,392	90,837	464,392	90,837
Provisions—Bacon, pork, lard, cwt.	32,211	64,619	Free.	Free.
Butter and cheese, cwt.	111,825	100,459	106,049	93,458
Animals, No.	47,608	64,619	Free.	Free.
Eggs, No.	10,724,170	—	10,724,170	—
Cocoa, lb.	967,951	378,211	356,820	349,053
Coffee, British, lb.	4,633,042	2,109,742	2,631,911	2,873,814
Ditto, foreign, lb.	3,631,094	5,149,271	750,383	556,376
Total coffee	8,264,136	7,259,013	3,382,294	3,430,190
Sugar—				
West India, cwt.	395,897	692,997	297,278	337,519
Mauritius, cwt.	63,540	120,814	72,609	56,837
East India, cwt.	102,269	56,908	85,722	37,499
Foreign, cwt.	279,418	675,568	263,692	377,210
Total sugar	841,124	1,546,287	719,301	809,065
Tea, lb.	4,862,989	9,748,835	5,535,723	5,967,579
Rice, cwt.	197,084	86,279	91,206	52,145
Spirits, gallons	876,847	1,089,939	523,396	587,587
Wines, gallons	848,661	1,001,481	762,838	699,570
Opium, lb.	1,106	1,018	7,330	5,896
Tobacco, lb.	5,652,037	939,432	2,874,944	2,884,823
Currants, figs and raisins, cwt. ..	86,003	42,274	39,155	38,342
Lemons and oranges, bushels ..	6,545	3,966	6,197	2,964
Spices, lb.	1,089,666	1,016,596	493,870	449,074
Ditto cwt.	128	2,692	513	391

The following are the comparative imports and exports of raw material, showing a diminution under each head, except silk and cotton:—

Month ending Oct. 10.	Imported.		Exported.	
	1853.	1854.	1853.	1854.
Flax, cwt.	321,340	124,407	—	—
Hemp, cwt.	324,986	104,035	—	—
Raw silk, lb.	463,069	680,207	47,426	107,026
Cotton, cwt.	395,772	407,143	143,783	157,570
Wool, lb.	14,819,871	7,950,012	434,378	726,919
Tallow, cwt.	173,599	79,941	—	—

Of silk manufactures the totals stand thus:—

Month ending Oct. 10.	Imported.		Home Consumption.	
	1853.	1854.	1853.	1854.
Silk manufactures of Europe, lb.	111,098	106,534	104,395	101,578
Ditto, of Indian pieces	29,374	26,403	10,218	15,642

The importation of other articles during the month has also been on a rather diminished scale, so as further to account for the late improvement in the foreign exchanges. In dyes and dyeing stuffs there has been a decrease, except of cochineal, madder, and valonia. A great reduction is shown in hides, and also in metals, except tin. Of palm and train oils the importation has likewise been comparatively very small, but other kinds present an increase. The arrivals and consumption of timber have been steady, a falling off in foreign being made up by an increase in colonial.

AUSTRIAN BANKING FACILITIES.

THE desperate financial condition of Austria, which promises to be aggravated by the progress of the war, has, it is well known, been produced through the interference of the Government with the ordinary development of the resources of the country. From the annexed article, extracted from the *Vienna Press*, it appears a fresh attempt is about to be made to organise banks, and other establishments, for the purpose of granting loans and opening credit accounts. While acknowledging that this is the system by which alone the finances of a nation can be restored to efficiency, and its natural wealth made productive among all classes, we must, at the same time, express our apprehension, that there is little prospect of success under the *surveillance* of authorities who may at any moment exercise political stratagems, either to tamper with the proper administration of affairs, or, if it were necessary to suit their convenience, to suppress them altogether.

It is proposed to supply the urgent want of capital, felt throughout the country, by the creation of new banks and other establishments, which may grant loans and open credit-accounts. There can be decidedly nothing more desirable for Austria, than the perfect development of her monetary resources, after the example of countries that have made greater progress than herself. But the realisation of these plans requires time, and the evil we are now suffering brooks no delay. Besides, banking establishments can only produce their full effect when they are founded on a sound, rational system. Unfortunately, we cannot altogether praise, in this respect, similar establishments of the kind already in existence; and, for this reason, their reform appears to us to be even more urgent than their multiplication, since, by this means, help may be had much sooner, and the ground will be better prepared for new edifices.

What our monetary system most requires is, freedom of motion. We should, above all, learn to be convinced that capital, like any other marketable article, is best left to free competition, and that only in this manner does it render substantial service to the productive powers and commercial intercourse of a state.

The capital of a nation cannot be increased any moment you like, although, in solitary instances, much may be done to facilitate its circulation. But since there is an inadequate supply of capital, what ought first to be cared for is, its proper distribution.

A general, who understands the art of properly distributing his troops, often effects more with a small number than another general that does not possess this talent can do with a large one. By a just distribution of capital, we mean the one where money lying uninvested is always to be procured by that borrower, who, after deduction of the premium on account of risk, is inclined to give the highest rate of interest for the use of it. As it is in general to be taken for granted that the self-interest of the borrower, when he is not straightened by any legal difficulties, is the best guide for his undertakings, supposing capital were distributed in the manner here proposed, not only would the capitalist acquire the highest rate of interest, but the greatest quantity of produce would also be obtained, and thus on every side the means would be created for accumulating new capital as fast as possible.

All the world will probably agree with us in so far as the principle is at issue; it is only in the choice of means that we are in opposition to the ideas prevalent at the present time. Independent of the limitations imposed by our trade laws, which in various ways impede the distribution of capital where it is required at any time for the purposes of production, and, independent of the existing usury laws, that do the same in a less degree, but solely because they are more frequently evaded, a third cause is to be mentioned, that exercises the greatest disturbing influence over the natural distribution of capital—we mean the fixed rate of interest allowed by the national bank, which, considering the present state of the times, is not sufficiently high.

At first sight, it may appear a paradox to many of our readers when we assert that a fixed rate of interest being too low, can act injuriously on the general produce of industry; but we beg them to reflect that we are speaking here solely of the proper distribution of all capital, and that the highest productiveness of the national labour is dependent on this collective distribution, not on the high rate of interest enjoyed by a certain portion of that capital.

Through the fixed, but now insufficient, rate of interest given by the national bank, a very considerable portion of the existing trading capital is invested in different kinds of business, that would probably be suffered to drop, if the money required for carrying them on were only to be obtained on conditions such as are determined by free competition in the money market; whereas those kinds of business are now neglected, which, by means of the prospective

profits, would yield more than 4 per cent. interest on the capital to be advanced, which capital, however, they cannot now procure. Among those bothouse plants that are being forced by the 4 per cent. interest of the Bank, we especially allude to the speculation in foreign bonds; for it is now actively at work in keeping up the present high quotations of foreign bills of exchange. If London and Paris bills of exchange were to yield as high a rate of interest as our investments at home, it is probable that half Austria, by way of precaution, would invest all the money at her disposal in these bonds, for the purpose of emancipating herself from the violent changes in the real worth, though not the nominal value, of our currency.

Even parties that are not capitalists would buy this foreign paper with a view to its possible rise, if they could only borrow the requisite purchase money on interest as low as that which is yielded by those foreign bills. But what in general is not granted to the Austrian public, is conceded by the national bank to all who have a credit account with it, at 4 per cent. In this way she encourages speculation, and the laying out of capital on foreign paper, quite as much as if she actually made advances at 4 per cent. to the full amount on London bills of exchange; and many undertakings of this nature would probably not be made at all, if the bank were to make its rate of discount higher and more proportionate to present circumstances. Now, we should be assuredly the last persons in the world to see anything criminal in this purchasing of foreign bills of exchange, and we are very far from advocating any interference on the part of Government for the purpose of putting a stop to the practice, or from justifying it, supposing it really did take place. But that the administration is patiently to look on, while an institution, that for six years has not been able to fulfil its engagements to the holders of its notes, is promoting the depreciation of these very notes by its discounting at too low a rate of interest, thereby procrastinating and postponing its resumption of cash payments, this appears to us to be a course of proceeding that must tire out at last the patience of even the most indulgent Government.

BALANCE SHEETS OF FAILED FIRMS.

Now that the balance sheets of Mr. Edward Oliver, Mr. J. M'Henry, and Messrs. Allen and Anderson are before the public, they will have the opportunity of estimating how far our late strictures were justified, with respect to the existing system of Liverpool trading. Here are three estates, whose aggregate liabilities represent upwards of one million and a quarter sterling, showing dividends ranging from about 2*s.* to 17*s.* in the pound; the whole of the misfortunes in connection with which have been brought about by an illimitable use of paper credit. Legitimate as the transactions may have been upon which its creation was originally based, the facilities afforded for its extension have permitted its active promoters to involve themselves and their supporters so seriously, that there has been no alternative left but a general suspension to effect a re-arrangement of their affairs. Although the prospects of the creditors of Mr. Oliver are not as favourable as at

first predicted, they appear likely to obtain a fair dividend. Instead of the 20s. in the pound, and the large surplus which it was positively affirmed his property would realize, a necessary allowance for the depreciation of shipping has been made, and the trustees report a valuation of the assets at 17s. 6d. ; perhaps a further consideration will bring them to 10s. or 12s. 6d. ; an amount then that is comparatively satisfactory when contrasted with the other two unfortunate firms. The assets of Messrs. Allen and Anderson exhibit about 5s. in the pound, and those of Mr. J. M'Henry, the smaller sum of 1s. 6d. Owing, however, to the partnership, the amount in the latter case may be increased to 2s. or 3s., the billholders being sure to elect the best of the two estates; while in the former, a proportionate reduction will take place, as these claims are considerable. Whatever apology may be attempted respecting the indiscretion of Messrs. Allen and Anderson in permitting themselves to be deluded into a partnership with Mr. J. M'Henry, they have themselves alone to blame for it. Enormous as the operations of the Liverpool house were, and large as the rate of expectant profit was represented, it might have easily been ascertained that they were of a character incurring great risk, especially in its American department. This result is shown, but unhappily too late, in the enormous deficiency under Mr. M'Henry's estate, attributable to bad debts of the class alluded to. A salutary lesson will be afforded to the entire trading community by the history of these failures, and, although the attendant sacrifice in many quarters will prove severe, it may not be unaccompanied by benefit if properly treasured and appreciated.

THE ESTATE OF MR. EDWARD OLIVER.

A MEETING of the creditors of Mr. E. Oliver, merchant and shipowner, of Liverpool, who suspended on the 4th of October, was held on the 27th, when the following statement of his affairs was submitted and unanimously agreed to:—

LIABILITIES.

Acceptances out at date of suspension	..	£710,724	0	0	
Of which are expected to be withdrawn and retired, by the drawers or other parties	.. .. .	65,823	11	3	
					£644,900 8 9
Creditors on open balances	.. ..				62,267 0 4
Bills receivable estimated bad	.. ..	£221,063	10	1	
Deduct securities in hands of bankers	.. ..	70,916	15	5	150,146 14 8
					£857,314 3 9

ASSETS.			
Bills on hand considered good	£44,366	11	7
Debts estimated good	23,125	15	8
Timber cargoes, deducting advances ..	22,293	6	10
Insurances in New York £43,900	0	0	
Less lien of Arthur Leary 15,021	15	9	
	28,878	4	3
Palm oil sold to arrive	32,600	0	0
Ships	£413,131	15	0
Freights	165,611	0	2
	578,742	15	2
House at Wavertree	1,000	0	0
12 shares in Peel River Company ..	48	0	0
1 share in Australian Agricultural Company ..	40	0	0
Collieries at Upholl, and estimated at ..	3,000	0	0
Estimated surplus in the hands of Messrs.			
Goodhall, Chilton and Co.	10,000	0	0
	744,094	13	6
Deficiency	£113,219	10	3

The following gentlemen, who had acted as temporary trustees, were unanimously confirmed in their appointment:—Messrs. Robert Crosbie, Robert Rankin, Daniel Campbell, John S. De Wolf, and W. J. Fernie. The solicitor for Mr. Oliver intimated that he and his client were confident that, with judicious management, the estate would pay 20s. in the pound, and leave a handsome balance. The difference between the surplus originally shown by Mr. Oliver, and the present deficit of £113,219 10s. 3d., was stated to have partially arisen from the amount of bills likely to be dishonoured, and from the large depreciation in the value of ships and timber. It was distinctly mentioned, in answer to a question, that the statement presented to the meeting had been made up in the manner most certain to be realised, so that the public might not be misled.

THE ESTATE OF ALLEN AND ANDERSON.

A meeting of the creditors of Messrs. Allen and Anderson, engaged in the American trade, who failed on the 6th of October, was held to-day, Mr. D. B. Chapman presiding, when the following statement, prepared by Messrs. Quilter, Ball, and Co., was submitted:—

Statement of Affairs, October 6, 1854.

DEBTOR.				£	s.	d.
To sundry trade and cash creditors				100,514	9	3
To liabilities, viz.—						
On account of M'Henry £102,035	8	3				
On account of others ..	16,817	6	7			
	£118,852	14	10			
Further on account of M'Henry,						
£111,883 10 0, of which claims will						
probably arise upon	54,182	11	0			
	173,035	5	10			

To liabilities on endorsements, &c., which
it is estimated will run off and not be

claimed on the estate.. .. £265,715 14 5

£273,549 15 1

CREDITOR.

By bills receivable on hand £2,989 5 2

By sundry debtors, viz.—

On consignment accounts £19,166 17 0

On current accounts 32,538 12 7

51,705 9 7

By sundry policies and loans on security 9,291 18 8

By stock 9,284 0 0

By estimated surplus value of cotton 7,500 0 0

£80,770 13 5

Deduct preferential claims 1,106 12 7

£79,664 0 10

With regard to the general result of the accounts, it was explained that the assets show a dividend of about 5s. 6d. in the pound, and that there is every expectation of 5s. at least being realised. The liabilities may, it is stated, be increased by the sum of £26,000, and diminished to the extent of £40,000. The connexion of the firm of Allen and Anderson, of London, with that of M'Henry, of Liverpool, arose from the extension of general credit facilities on the part of the former, under the impression that the affairs of the Liverpool house were in a much stronger position. It was mentioned that there are certain liabilities in the United States, which, it is anticipated, will be fully covered by arrangements already made. Mr. Murray, the legal representative of Messrs. Allen and Anderson, after calling the attention of the creditors to the nature of the assets and to the prospect of an early distribution, referred to the position of the holders of bills having the names of M'Henry and Allen and Anderson. In consequence of the connexion of the latter firm with Mr. M'Henry, the holders of the bills (£173,035), in the event of bankruptcy, would have to elect against which estate they would make their proof; and the intention of the resolutions and of the deed of inspection would be to reserve the rights of the bill-holders to such an election, and, in fact, to give them all the advantages to which they are entitled. After some conversation, it was generally agreed to wind up the estate under inspection, and the annexed resolutions were carried. It was stated in the course of the proceedings that, so great was the confidence reposed in the stability of Messrs. Allen and Anderson, their own managing clerk, who possessed every opportunity of ascertaining their course of business, is a creditor for £23,000, the principal and interest of capital deposited in their hands.

“At a meeting of the creditors of Messrs. Allen and Anderson, held on Wednesday, the 15th day of November, 1854, Mr. D. B. Chapman in the

chair, a statement of the affairs having been submitted, the following resolutions were moved, seconded and adopted :—

“That it is expedient the affairs should be wound up under inspection, and that the following gentlemen be requested to act as inspectors, viz., Mr. Richard Sanderson, Mr. John Green Elsey and Mr. Raymond Pelley; and that a proper deed of inspectorship, providing for the winding-up, administration and distribution of the joint estate of the said firm and the separate estate of the partners thereof, according to the rules in bankruptcy, and as if bankruptcy had taken place on the 6th ult., and with all usual clauses, be prepared and approved by the inspectors; and that a dividend be paid as early as possible upon such deed being signed, and further dividends from time to time when £5 per cent. is in hand. That no creditor signing or assenting to these resolutions shall be in any way prejudiced with respect to his rights or remedies against third persons, or with respect to any security or lien he may have for his particular debt; and such signature or assent shall be subject to the consent of such third persons, where any consent is necessary. That in the meantime, until such deed of inspectorship shall be completed, these resolutions shall be, and be deemed to be, a memorandum of arrangement within the meaning of the Bankrupt Law Consolidation Act, 1849.”

THE ESTATE OF MR. J. M'HENRY.

A meeting of the creditors of Mr. James M'Henry, who failed on the 4th of October, was held at Liverpool, on the 22nd of November, when an adjournment took place, to afford time for a final consideration of the course ultimately to be adopted. According to the sub-joined statement, presented by Mr. Fry, the accountant, the assets show a dividend of 1s. 6d. in the pound; but this, it is expected, may be increased to 2s. or 3s., as the liabilities are likely to be largely diminished by the billholders electing to prove against Messrs. Allen and Anderson as partners. The enormous deficiency of 307,857*l.* is represented as having principally occurred through bad debts in the United States. From the feeling exhibited at the meeting, it is supposed that the estate will be wound up under a deed of inspection :—

LIABILITIES.

On acceptances	£14,940	0	9
On acceptances to be retired by other parties £35,873 0s. 2d.			
On book debts	16,754	9	6
On foreign debts	1,510	16	11
On bills receivable	268,208	10	1
On 12 draughts of Edward Oliver, accepted by J. M'Henry	£30,964	10	6
On Wann and M'Birney's three draughts, J. M'Henry, in favour of E. Oliver	5,000	0	0
	35,964	10	6
	£337,378	7	9

ASSETS.

Claims on book debts considered good	£22,316	13	5
Valuation of doubtful debts	393	8	2
Ditto stock on hand	3,155	0	0
Ditto working implements	540	6	4
Mortgage on the Ava	600	0	0
100 shares in the Lancashire Insurance Company, valued at	350	0	0
J. Curtis's promissory note, due October 27 ..	157	16	11
Valuation of office fixtures	250	0	0
Cash on hand	300	0	0
5 policies of insurance on the lives of G. Longmore, Jas. Longmore, and Jas. Taylor, valued at ..	150	0	0
Estimated proceeds to be received from William M'Kee and Co., Philadelphia, of linens shipped on account S. Turney	£1,000	0	0
Less part to be applied in retiring S. Turney's acceptance for this amount	600	0	0
		400	0
S. Turney's acceptance, due No- vember 16, in the hands of J. M'Henry	600	0	0
Less surplus receipts expected from W. M'Kee and Co.	400	0	0
	£200	0	0
Less amount due to him on book debt	106	8	6
		93	14
Valuation of residue of book debts due to J. M'Henry in America	2,000	0	0
	£30,706	16	4
Less payments to be made in full	1,185	10	8
	£29,521	5	8
Deficiency	307,857	2	1
	£337,378	7	9

THE BANK OF FRANCE.

THE *Moniteur* publishes the following monthly debtor and creditor account of the Bank of France made up to the 9th of November:—

	DEBTOR.	F.	C.
Capital of the bank		91,250,000	0
Reserve of the bank		12,980,750	14
Reserve of the bank in landed property		4,000,000	0
Bank notes in circulation		485,445,400	0
Carried forward		F.593,676,150	14

	Brought forward	..	..	F.593,676,150	14
Bank Notes of the branch banks	..	..	..	149,287,600	0
Ditto to order	..	..	..	6,531,191	58
Receipts payable at sight	..	..	..	10,446,665	0
Treasury account current creditor	..	..	..	58,249,837	57
Sundry accounts current	..	..	..	110,615,281	1
Ditto in branch banks	..	..	..	25,741,661	0
Dividends payable	..	..	..	647,577	25
Discounts and sundry interest	..	..	..	5,619,166	90
Commission on deposits	..	..	..	22,780	65
Rediscounted during the last six months	..	..	..	916,188	68
Protested bills	..	..	..	219,008	48
Sundries	..	..	..	7,061,103	89
				F.969,034,212	15

	CREDITOR.	F.	C.
Cash in hand..	..	287,220,391	86
Cash in the branch banks	..	150,104,219	0
Commercial bills overdue	..	434,122	7
Commercial bills discounted, but not yet due, of which 59,858,308f. 31c. were received from the branch banks		118,647,311	37
Ditto in the branch banks	..	151,244,349	0
Advanced on deposit of bullion	..	982,100	0
Ditto by the branch banks	..	1,136,583	0
Ditto on French public securities	..	21,325,936	10
Ditto by the branch banks	..	5,954,800	0
Advanced on railway securities	..	47,820,600	0
Ditto by the branch banks	..	14,676,100	0
Advanced to the State on the treaty of June 30, 1848	..	65,000,000	0
Discount of Treasury bonds	..	30,000,000	0
Government stock reserved	..	10,000,000	0
Ditto disposable	..	55,448,559	82
Hotel and furniture of the bank	..	4,000,000	0
Landed property of the branch banks	..	3,825,710	0
Expenses of the management of the bank	..	1,139,383	95
Sundries	..	74,047	98
		F.969,034,212	15

Certified by the Governor of the Bank of France,

D'ARGOUT.

It appears from these returns that the metallic reserve has diminished during the past month 38,770,464f. in Paris, and 981,117f. in the branch banks. The discount accommodation has increased both in Paris and in the departments—in the former 8,357,939f., and in the latter 6,117,751f. The advances on public securities have augmented in Paris, 386,100f. and diminished in the departments 27,300f. The notes in circulation have decreased in Paris 995,400f., and augmented in the departments 3,155,350f. The treasury account current has increased 12,957,244f.; those of private individuals have fallen off 2,009,019f. in Paris, and 2,295,204f. in the departments.

Banking and Commercial Law.

ON THE POWER OF PUBLIC COMPANIES TO BORROW MONEY.

RAILWAY COMPANIES.

As railway companies require an Act of Parliament to incorporate them, and give them necessary powers, reference must be made to their Act or Acts to learn how far they can become borrowers. In the year 1819, and before railway companies had been generally established, it was decided that corporations could not borrow by accepting or signing negotiable instruments, unless they had an express power to do so, or the nature of their business rendered such a power essential. In *Broughton v. The Manchester Water Works Company*, 3 Barn. & Ald. 8, Judge Bayley said:—"The Act of Parliament by which this corporation is established does not contain any express power by which they are enabled to become parties to bills of exchange or promissory notes; nor is there anything in the purpose for which this corporation was established from which it is to be implied that such a power was meant to be given."

Nevertheless, at one period railway companies adopted the practice of borrowing money on loan notes. The 7 & 8 Vict. c. 85, s. 19, recites that many railway companies have borrowed money in a manner unauthorised by their acts of incorporation, or other Acts of Parliament relating to the said companies, upon the security of loan notes, or other instruments purporting to give a security for the repayment of the principal sums borrowed at certain dates, and for the payment of interest thereon in the meantime: *And that such loan notes or other securities issued otherwise than under the provision of some Act or Acts of Parliament have no legal validity*, and it is expedient that the issue of such illegal securities should be stopped; but such loan notes or other securities having been issued and received in good faith, as between the borrower and lender, and for the most part for the lawful purposes of the undertaking, and in ignorance of their legal invalidity, it is expedient to confirm such as have been already issued. The Act then proceeds to prohibit any railway company from issuing any loan note or other negotiable or assignable instrument, but makes those previously issued lawful, and requires a register to be kept of the same. Those who are curious to learn more of these extinct instruments, may find several questions respecting them discussed in *Campbell v. London and Brighton Railway Company*, 5 Hare, 519.

Modern railway companies are governed by their special Acts and by certain Acts called general Acts, one of these being the

"Companies Clauses Act." The sections of the "Companies Clauses Act" relating to the power to borrow are those from the 38th to the 60th, both inclusive, and contain important regulations; but as they relate entirely to mortgages and bonds, and have no especial connection with banking, it is not deemed necessary to do more than refer to them.

The more important questions affecting bankers, respecting the powers of railway companies to borrow money, are, how far they can obtain loans from their bankers on a sudden emergency, or overdraw their banking accounts. Where a projected railway company borrowed money to make it appear to the committee of the House of Commons that a larger sum had been subscribed than was the fact, and the lender was privy to this purpose, it was held that the transaction could not be treated as a loan. *Clements v. Bowes*, 22 Law J., ch 1022.

A railway company can of course draw cheques against its own funds at its bankers, such a document plainly falling within the rule of necessity which the authorities admit to exist. How far it can overdraw its account, and thus indirectly borrow money on the faith of its cheques, seems undecided. It appears to us that a railway company may overdraw its account to a reasonable extent, but that this must not be carried to so far as to amount a practice of borrowing.

There is no case reported in which the question has arisen between the banker and the railway company; but there is a case in which a cheque was drawn by a railway company upon bankers who dishonoured it, and the holder sued the railway company upon it. The case ultimately turned upon a question of fraud between the drawers and the holder, some point being also made of the fact that it was not properly signed, but no objection was raised against it on the ground of its being drawn without there being funds at the bankers to meet it; on the contrary, it was admitted in the argument and judgment, that if there had been no fraud, and the cheque had been properly signed, the amount of it could have been removed by the holder. If this be case with the holder, after the bank has dishonoured it, there cannot surely be any objection to the bank cashing the cheque and becoming the holder, and thereby acquiring at least the same rights as the ordinary holder, if not others, in their special capacity of bankers.

The case we refer to is *Serrell v. Derbyshire, &c. Railway Company*, 19 Law J. (C. P.) 87.

The facts were that the board of directors drew a cheque in the form they usually adopted, in favour of one of the directors for some purpose the company afterwards alleged to be fraudulent. The cheque was paid away to a third party (the plaintiff),

and when presented at the bank, was dishonoured. The plaintiff then sued the company.

Byles, Serjeant (*Simon* with him), for the plaintiff, said :—This is the cheque of the company. First, it purports to be the cheque of the company ; it is drawn by three persons who were directors at the time, and named in the public act which established the company, as directors ; it is also countersigned by the secretary of the company. It is, in fact, a contract not under seal, made by two directors on behalf of the company, within the provision of the 97th section of the Companies Clauses Act, 8 & 9 Vict. c. 16. It is drawn upon the bankers of the company, with whom the directors themselves had no account ; and the name of the company appears impressed upon it. If the other cheques honoured by the company's bankers were in any respect different from this, the defendants might have shown that. Secondly, this cheque is drawn by three directors, acting within the limits of their authority, for a purpose authorised by the special act. The argument on this point is omitted, as the court were clearly of opinion that the drawing of the instrument was an illegal and fraudulent act.

M. D. Hill (*Wordsworth* with him) for the defendants, said :—This is not the cheque of the company. If a cheque at all, it is the cheque of the three persons who signed it in their individual capacity. It is not denied that there is somewhere an authority to bind the company by cheques ; but section 97 of the Companies Clauses Act does not extend to empower any two directors to bind the company by cheques, unless they are authorised by the board of directors to do so.

There is no power in any two directors of the company to constitute themselves the general agents of the company to draw cheques for it ; this cheque is drawn for an illegal purpose. Secondly, it does not purport to be the cheque of the company. The statement in the case regarding other cheques paid by the company's bankers is not material. There is no evidence that the stamp was put upon the cheque before the directors signed ; and it is important to observe that this stamp was common to all the documents of the company, and therefore it cannot of itself be intended to make it a binding contract. There is no signature by the directors as agents of the company, nor anything to show that the directors of the company had anything to do with placing the stamp there. This not purporting to be the cheque of the company on the face of it, cannot be shown to be so by extrinsic evidence.

Cresswell, Judge.—Yes ; supposing it were shown that the company were in the habit of recognising cheques drawn in exactly the same form. The instrument must be taken to be the cheque of those whose it appears on the face of it to be. *Beckham v. Knight*, *Emly v. Lye*, *Beckham v. Drake*, *Thomas v. Bishop*, *Tiffkin v. Walker*, *Leadbeater v. Fanow*, *Byles on Bills*, 5th edit., p. 26, and *Bult v. Morrell*. If the bankers, in their own wrong, pay cheques not properly drawn, that cannot prejudice the defendants. The fact of the three persons who drew the cheque being named in the act as directors, though it be a public act, does not affect all the world with the knowledge that they are so. *Brett v. Beales*, *Ballard v. Way*. But even if the word "directors" had been added to the names, it would not have bound the company unless it had been stated that they signed as directors.

Byles, Serjeant replied.

The following are the judgments of the judges.

Maule, Judge.—In this case some questions, both of fact and of law, are submitted to the decision of the court. The first issue was, whether the cheque in question was made by the defendants. In order to prove that the defendants, that is the company, did make the cheque, a paper was produced signed by three persons who were proved to have been directors of the company at the

time, and countersigned by a person who described himself, and who probably was, secretary of the company. There was a written date upon it—"London, 13th August, 1847," and a stamp impressed opposite to the names of the persons who appeared to be the drawers, and in the centre of the stamp was the same date, "13th August, 1847," surrounded by a circular piece of writing containing the name of the company. One question is, whether that paper, on the face of it, purports to be the cheque of the company. It appears to me that it does not. The persons who drew it were in fact directors of the company, but they do not describe themselves as such. There is no mention of the company in any part of the instrument except that contained in the stamp. The stamp, no doubt, contains the name of the company, but as to the instrument by itself, I do not think it can be said that it amounts to an order by the company to their bankers to pay money on their account. The meaning of this stamp cannot be ascertained without some extrinsic evidence. It is not like the ordinary case where, in the usual place of writing a name and style on a cheque, an illiterate person makes his mark, the rest of the cheque being filled up in the usual manner. It is not usual for a corporation nor for any body to write his name in a circular form round a date as this is written. If I were obliged to put a construction upon this stamp, I should feel very doubtful as to its meaning, but should guess it to mean that the instrument had passed through some office on such a day. But it is impossible to say what it means, or that this purports to be a binding document of the company without looking at some further evidence. Now, the evidence is, that all documents of the company have this stamp upon them. If that be so, it is clear that it cannot have been intended to bind the company, for it must be placed upon some documents under seal, in which case it cannot have any binding effect. I do not think, then, that this purports, on the face of it, to be a document binding the company. The other evidence from which we are to infer that this is in fact the cheque of the company is, that some fifty or sixty cheques in a year, signed by three directors, have been honoured by the company's bankers. Whether those cheques were signed by these same three directors does not appear; but even if signed exactly as those were, and the cheques having been honoured, the company were satisfied with the application of the money, it does not follow that they are to be bound by a dishonest transaction such as this was. The directors clearly never had any authority to cheat the company; and, moreover, the document does not purport to be made by any body as agent at all; and, therefore, it cannot be said that the defendants are bound, in spite of their agents having exceeded their authority, on the ground that they had been intrusted with a general authority. Upon the whole, I am of opinion that the defendants are entitled to succeed upon the first issue. I think a nonsuit should be entered.

Cresswell, Judge.—I am of the same opinion. The parties who drew and issued this cheque had no authority to do so. It was a fraud upon the company, whose servants they were. Neither did they affect, on the face of the instrument, to bind the company. They signed the cheque in their own names, and did not profess to be acting as agents, therefore no one had a right to take that cheque as an instrument issued by the company. The company had, in fact, never authorised any one to bind them by such an instrument.

Talfourd, Judge.—I am also of opinion that the first issue must be decided against the plaintiffs. It is, therefore, unnecessary to discuss the other issue. This instrument does not appear to me to purport to be the cheque of the company. If I were asked what the parties who signed this document intended, I should say that they probably meant to draw an equivocal instrument, which would possibly be paid by the company, but which, if any inquiry arose, they might contend that they drew with the intention of binding themselves. The stamp impressed upon it is not in any form prescribed by the

Act of the company or required by law. There is no proof that the company were cognizant that any cheques had been drawn in this form; and if they were, there are circumstances about this cheque which would not apply to others. Neither in form nor in substance, therefore, is this the cheque of the defendants.

The plaintiff therefore lost his cause.

MERCANTILE SUSPENSIONS.

IN presenting the usual list of failures, it is satisfactory to perceive, that it includes only one London firm—viz., that of Messrs. Clay and Gillman, nearly the whole of the remainder being American establishments, banking and mercantile, which have been compelled to succumb, through the pressure occasioned by the exhaustion of credit and unsuccessful speculation. It would be futile to endeavour to estimate the liabilities they involve in the aggregate, the accounts in the American journals varying as to the respective amounts. The forgeries of Mr. H. Meiggs, of San Francisco, detailing an almost unparalleled abuse of confidence, is noticed in another part of the *Bankers' Magazine*.

Oct.—Newport Safety Fund, Newport, (U. S.), bankers.

Ohio Savings Banks, Ohio, bankers.

Kentucky Trust Bank, Kentucky, bankers.

Nov.—Knickerbocker Bank, New York, bankers.

Farmer's Bank, Saratoga, N. Y., bankers.

Messrs. Clay and Gillman, London, merchants.

Messrs. Brown and Son, Arbroath, Tanners.

Messrs. Hambleton and Sons, Baltimore, importing merchants.

Messrs. E. G. Merrick and Co., Buffalo, merchants.

Metropolitan Insurance Company, Boston, insurers.

Lewis County Bank, New York, bankers.

Messrs. J. A. Westervelt, New York, ship-builders.

Messrs. E. D. M. Livermore and Co., New York, wool trade.

Messrs. Ellis and Sturgis, Cincinnati, merchants.

Messrs. T. S. Goodman and Co., Cincinnati, merchants.

Messrs. J. R. Morton and Co., Cincinnati, merchants.

Messrs. Smead, Collard, and Co., Cincinnati, merchants.

Citizen's Bank, Cincinnati, bankers.

Canal Bank, Cleveland, Ohio, bankers.

City Bank of Columbus, Ohio, bankers.

Bank of Circleville, Ohio, bankers.

The Exchange Bank, Buffalo, New York, bankers.

Messrs. H. D. King, Pittsburg, Pennsylvania, bankers.

Mr. Beckel, Cincinnati, banker, &c.

The General Banks of Indiana, Indiana, bankers.

Mr. Henry Meiggs, San Francisco, California, merchant.

Mr. A. Tonnelier, Antwerp, Brazil trade.

Mr. W. Price, Quebec, Merchant.

Bank Meetings.

ROYAL BANK OF IRELAND.

THE annual general meeting of shareholders of this bank was held, pursuant to the deed of settlement, at the Bank-house, Foster-place, Dublin, on the 8th of November, Mr. Patrick Reid in the chair, when the following report was unanimously adopted:—

The paid-up capital of the Bank is	£209,175	0	0
The reserve fund	50,900	0	0
The profits of the year terminated on the 31st August last,			
after deducting all the expenses of management and in-			
come tax, and providing for bad and doubtful debts,			
amount to	31,856	1	7
Out of which have been paid to the share-			
holders two half-yearly dividends, at the			
rate of 6 per cent. per annum, amounting			
to	£12,550	10	0
Also a bonus on the year of 4 per cent. per			
annum, amounting to			
	8,367	0	0
Making a total payment of 10 per cent. on the year, or ..	20,917	10	0
And leaving a surplus on the year of	10,938	11	7
To which, adding unappropriated profits of last year ..	3,257	16	2
Leaves a total surplus of	£14,196	7	9

The preceding figures exhibit such an unquestionable proof of the prosperous condition of the bank, that the directors deem it unnecessary to make any further remark on them than to congratulate the shareholders on the satisfactory results they indicate. The directors have, however, to call the attention of the shareholders to the undivided surplus profits, amounting to £14,196 17s. 9d., and to suggest the appropriation of such a portion of them as the deed of settlement warrants towards increasing the reserved fund, which, from the expansion of the bank's business since that fund was, by a resolution of the shareholders, limited to its present amount of £50,000, the directors think desirable. Under this impression, the directors recommend that a sum not exceeding one-fourth of the nett profits of the year, the proportion to which the deed of settlement limits such application, be added to the reserved fund; and that they be authorised to make further additions to the said fund, at such future annual periods as they see fit, until it shall amount to £60,000. The report having been received and adopted, it was agreed that the sum of £7,500 should be taken from the surplus profits, and added to the reserved fund.

Thanks, as usual, were voted to the directors and manager.

LONDON CHARTERED BANK OF AUSTRALIA.

A MEETING of proprietors of this bank was held on the 24th of November, at the London Tavern, Mr. Duncan Dunbar, chairman of company, presiding. At the commencement of the proceedings the following statement of the accounts was submitted:—

Abstract of Profit and Loss Account at 30th June, 1854.

Dr.

To proportion of preliminary expenses for half-year ending					
30th June last	...	...	...	...	£ 1,403 9 11
To amount carried to reserve fund	...	...	...	...	1,500 0 0
To dividend of 3 per cent, on paid up capital, for half-year					
ending 30th June (free of income tax)	...	...	...	...	15,000 0 0
To balance to next half-year	...	...	..	...	6,977 11 9
					<u>£24,881 1 8</u>

Cr.

By balance at 31st December, 1853, per last report	...	£ 3,778 5 3
By balance of profit and loss at London office and branches		
at 30th June last	...	21,102 16 5
		<u>£24,881 1 8</u>
By balance brought down	...	<u>£ 6,977 11 9</u>

The chairman, in moving the adoption of the accounts and the declaration of a dividend, said that it was not usual at meetings like the present to submit statements of accounts, which more properly formed the business of the annual meeting. Nevertheless, the statement which had just been read would show them that the dividend they were about to declare had actually been earned. He had only to add that the accounts from the colony were extremely satisfactory, not one had debt having, he believed, been incurred. (Hear, hear.) The directors now proposed to divide amongst the proprietors £15,000 of their own money, which would give 3 per cent. for the half-year, and they would still have profits to the amount of $1\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. towards the next dividend. (Cheers.) He moved that a dividend of 3 per cent. for the half-year be declared and adopted.

Mr. De Salis, in seconding the motion, pointed out the increase which had taken place in the company's business during the short space of six months. On the 30th December last year their circulation was about £125,000; in the following June it had increased to £279,000, being 105 per cent. Their deposits, which, at the first period, were £120,000, had by the second increased to £291,000. The discounts were at the first date £386,453, at the second £816,000. (Cheers.) He referred to this last fact because the proprietary were aware that the discounts formed the most profitable branch of banking business. (Hear, hear.) Under these circumstances, he had great pleasure in seconding the motion of their chairman, which proved that the bank had not disappointed, nor left unfulfilled the promises of its originators. (Cheers.)

The resolution was then put and carried unanimously.

The chairman said that the next resolution, which was one to increase their capital by the sum of £200,000, was one which required some little explanation. The proposal had caused great anxiety and much discussion among the directors previous to its introduction to the general proprietary, because they knew that, the smaller the capital, the greater the dividend was likely to be. (Hear, hear.) But from the great increase of their business in the colony, and the competition of the other banks, they had found that if they wished to carry on their bank with credit, they must have an increase of capital. He might remind the proprietors that although they had only one bank in London, they had three in Australia. First, there was their branch at Sidney, which of itself required nearly all their capital; then there was the one at Melbourne,

a place that was so rapidly rising into commercial importance; and, finally, the branch at Geelong, where the business was of the most promising character. Their inspectors had told them that the smallest sum they could get on with in the colony was £450,000, which would leave only £50,000 to meet contingencies at home. Probably he ought here to state that their capital was first fixed at £1,000,000 sterling; but the directors only took half a million until they saw how the bank got on. They now found that £50,000 was not sufficient for contingencies in London, in consequence of the bills which were drawn on the gold cargoes. They would recollect the case of the *Madagascar*, which went down with £400,000 in gold on board, and the *Swarthmore* with a cargo of similar value now repairing at Tahiti. In both cases the bills drawn on the cargoes had to be met long before anything could be obtained from the underwriters. To meet contingencies of this kind, the directors proposed that the capital be raised by the amount of £200,000, to be issued in 10,000 shares of £20 each, and the first instalment to be £5 per share. The shares were to be offered rateably to the proprietors, in the proportion of two to every five shares registered in the books of the company.

Mr. Wilcox, M.P., seconded the motion, remarking that their capital was less than that of many private banks. (Hear, hear.) If he were disposed to find fault it would be with the moderation of the directors, in not demanding a greater increase of capital, (Cheers.)

Mr. Ducros objected to the proposed increase, and read a tabular list of colonial banks, which had given large dividends on a very small amount of capital. He thought a capital of £500,000 quite sufficient for their bank, and hoped the proprietors would pause before they consented to increase it. He could have wished also that a statement of accounts had been furnished to each proprietor before entering the room.

The chairman explained that the accounts were regularly audited and presented in June last, and would in the same way be presented next June. Many of the banks to which the proprietor had alluded increased their capital before the gold discoveries; and, besides the great amount of their accumulated deposits must be taken into account. (Hear, hear.) This had enabled the old-established banks to have every shilling of their capital in this country, and also part of their deposits. The London Chartered had rivals in all those establishments, and it was therefore that it was now proposed to increase the capital. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. Tite supported the motion, and expressed a hope that it would pass unanimously.

The resolution was then put and unanimously agreed to, the first call of £5 to be due and payable on the 1st January next.

The next resolution was one to confirm the provisional election of Mr. C. G. Barnett as a director of the company.

Mr. Ducros objected to the great number of directors. Their business was conducted in Sydney by three, and in Melbourne by two directors, and yet in London they required twelve.

The chairman explained that the number twelve had been fixed by the proprietors themselves, who had moreover awarded £3,000 for their annual remuneration. Up to this time the directors had however drawn only £1,800. (Cheers.)

Mr. Barnett was then unanimously elected, and thanked the proprietors.

Thanks were then voted to the chairman, and the proceedings terminated.

MERCANTILE BANK OF INDIA, LONDON, AND CHINA.

A SPECIAL general meeting of the shareholders of the Mercantile Bank of India, London, and China, was held at Bombay on the 13th of September, to take into consideration proposals made to the directors by the Chartered

Bank of Asia, for an amalgamation of the capital and shareholders of the two institutions. The chief suggestions for an amalgamation, put forward on behalf of the Chartered Bank of Asia, were :—

1. The capital of the Mercantile Bank to be incorporated with the capital of the Bank of Asia by the allotment of shares in the Bank of Asia to the extent of the paid-up capital of the Mercantile Bank. The remainder of shares in the Bank of Asia to be held by the present subscribers.

2. No further call to be made upon the shares acquired by the Mercantile Bank, until an equal amount shall have been called upon all the other shares of the Bank of Asia. In like manner, as the present holders of shares in the Bank of Asia will have reduced the number of their shares, in order to admit the Mercantile Bank, the directors shall be authorised to allot to the present holders of Asia Bank shares, out of the first issue of new shares, so many new shares of a like denomination as will equalise the number of their shares with the number to be acquired by the Mercantile Bank.

3. The business of an amalgamated company in India, to be conducted by a local board at Bombay, to be appointed in conformity with the charter.

The other suggestions had reference to the establishment of a share register of the Amalgamated Company at Bombay, the regulations connected with proxies, and one for paying the Bank of Asia £1,500 towards the expense incurred in obtaining the charter. Some discussion followed the reading of these proposals, some of which were regarded as too favourable to the Chartered Bank of Asia. Eventually, resolutions were unanimously passed, declaring the expediency of the amalgamation, "provided fair and reasonable terms of amalgamation can be agreed upon," and authorising the directors to negotiate such terms. A second general meeting of the proprietary was held on the 24th of September, when these resolutions were unanimously confirmed

Communications.

To the Editor of the Bankers' Magazine.

IRREGULAR INDORSEMENT.

SIR,—In the fourth volume of your Magazine, page 229, you have given it as your opinion that a banker's bill made payable to a firm with the word "Messrs.," and so indorsed, is not a *legal signature*. I should be much obliged if, in your next number, you would give me your authority for this, as I have to-day had a case very similar, which, according to your opinion, must be a loss to the holder, unless the indorsement can be corrected.

The case is this—

A bill made payable to the Rev. A. B., indorsed "Rev. A. B.," *refused* payment on the ground that the indorsement is irregular. I believe that the "Rev." is mere surplusage, and does not invalidate the indorsement, and that the property of the bill has passed to the holder, and, as such, he can recover, proving the indorsement "Rev. A. B." to be the handwriting of A. B.

I remain, sir, yours obediently,

A BANKER.

Exeter, 6th Nov., 1854.

[In the case of *Leonard v. Wilson*, 2 Crompton & Meesom, 589, and in the case of *Walker v. Macdonald*, 17 Law J. Ex., 377, it is stated to have been proved to be the custom of all London bankers to refuse all bills, even their own acceptances, when there is an irregularity in an indorsement, even to the variation of a letter. The indorser may, of course, be liable.]

CHEQUE.—THE WORDS “OR BEARER.”

SIR,—As an old subscriber to your valuable magazine, I beg to request an answer to the following query, in your next month's number, viz. :—

Whether an unstamped cheque with the words “or bearer” crossed out, can be legally paid by a bank, the said cheque being presented through the medium of another banking establishment?

Your obedient servant,

R. E. S.

[Such a cheque cannot legally be paid. The words “or bearer” are indispensable in an unstamped cheque.]

RECEIPTS FOR BILLS TAKEN IN EXCHANGE, OR ACROSS THE COUNTER.

SIR,—You will oblige by answering the following question in your next number.

Is it usual or *proper* for country bankers to receipt bills when taken in exchange from other bankers, or paid across the counter? I believe it is the custom of London bankers to do so in the former case.

Your obedient servant,

J. F. H.

Worthing, Nov 18th, 1854.

DEPOSIT IN TWO NAMES, FOR BENEFIT OF SEVERAL.

SIR,—A, the widowed mother of several children, deposited her money in a bank, in the names of two sons, B and C, her own family and the bankers all understanding that, at her decease, the money should be equally divided amongst her children. A and B are both dead. C wants to obtain possession of the whole, or, if he cannot get the whole, at least one-half of it. The bankers will not pay C, until B's executors sign; though B's executors make no claim, B having died before A. They will give their names, on condition of C's acting honourably. (A left no will.)

Can C *compel* the bankers to pay *him* the money? Are not the bankers right in requiring the names of B's representatives?

Your obedient servant,

Nov. 14th, 1854.

M.

[If the widow made a valid declaration of trust, B and C were trustees for themselves and the other children. C's receipt alone would discharge the bankers, in the absence of a notice of a trust, on B's death being proved; but the bankers are quite right to give the other children the opportunity of asserting their equitable claim to their share of the fund before they hand it over to C. See article on the Law of Deposit Receipts, *Bankers' Magazine*, vol. xiv., page 17.]

CHEQUE STAMPS.—HEAD OFFICE AND BRANCHES.—FIFTEEN MILES.

SIR,—Is it necessary that a cheque drawn by a customer of a bank that has several branches (many of which are at a distance of more than fifteen miles from the head office or from each other), if presented for payment at one of the branches that is at a greater distance than fifteen miles from the one where it is payable should bear a penny stamp, or is the cheque to be considered as payable at any of the bank's branches without a stamp?

It is the practice of the establishment with which I am connected to pay cheques on their branches conditionally, *i.e.*, subject to their being honoured at the branch where payable.

Your opinion of the above in your next month's Journal will oblige.

Yours respectfully,

A BANK OFFICER.

Kent.

[We have answered a similar question to this in a former number, but the practice of the bank was not so fully stated as it is in this. We think no stamp is required. The statute says, "the bank or place at which the cheque is made payable." Where that bank gets the money from does not in our view affect the case.]

CHEQUES HANDED TO BANKER FOR COLLECTION MORE THAN FIFTEEN MILES FROM THE DRAWER'S BANKER.

SIR,—I am surprised that "Old Stager" should be unable to reconcile the extract which he gives from Mr. Keogh's communication with the clause of the act to which it refers. It is distinctly stated that the object of the clause is to prevent the *circulation* of unstamped cheques beyond fifteen miles from the bank they are drawn upon, and the only words which refer to the "sending" apply exclusively to the place the cheque is sent *to*, and not where it is sent *from*. I suppose it will not be questioned that I may receive an unstamped cheque within the prescribed distance, carry it with me fifty miles in any direction I please, and afterwards bring it back and negotiate it within the fifteen miles? and if I may so carry it, why not send it? I am also surprised that any one should ever have supposed that presenting a cheque at the bank it is drawn upon is circulating it.

And now, Mr. Editor, lest any of your readers should tell me that my own question was superfluous, after the publication in your October number of the extract previously referred to, permit me to explain that my inquiry was sent in September, but I suppose too late for publication in the magazine for October, and thus it was that it made its appearance after it had been rendered unnecessary.

Your obedient servant,

COMMERCIAL.

Nov. 14th, 1854.

[A cheque, unstamped, handed to a banker to collect more than fifteen miles from the bank upon which it is drawn, must, we think, be presumed to be an illegal investment. In order to meet this presumption, the holder declares that he received it within the distance of fifteen miles and has kept it in his possession since. Assuming this to justify the collecting and the paying bankers, is it not possible to foresee that in the event of any of the various sources of litigation (which no foresight can prevent) arising, that the truth of the holder's declaration may be difficult to prove?]

LAWS OF THE CURRENCY.

SIR,—Having read your extracts from Mr. Gilbert's pamphlet under the above title, in this month's magazine, I would beg to offer a few observations, or rather to suggest some questions for solution, which have arisen in my own mind whilst reading the same.

In considering the question of the circulation of notes, there are many circumstances that require explanation, and one of the chief is, why should that list of banks whose returns are published monthly be the only one allowed to issue their own notes? If any bank other than the Bank of England be allowed to

issue, why should not all those banks which can give sufficient proof of their soundness be allowed the same power?

There are many banks in the United Kingdom which could show fairer pretensions to such a privilege than many at present on the list; for proof of which we have only to turn to this month's return—where, for instance, we find one authorised to issue £9,150, circulating an average of £370; another with £4,789 against a circulation of from £2,294 to £2,691; another limited to £7,692 not maintaining more than £2,226 to £2,655; and several others in about equal proportions: such things are indeed anomalies, which require some explanation.

In reference to the question of issuing against Bank of England notes in England, as an equivalent to the Scotch and Irish issuing against the bullion they may hold, I think there is one point to be considered, viz., that in the case of a customer requesting notes, he would not hesitate in taking those of the Bank of England, where a Scotch banker (even if it were for the purpose of reducing his circulation below the limit) would find it a hard matter to keep his custom if he gave gold when asked for notes.

And it would relieve not only the bankers, but the public also, from much anxiety, did the former reduce their circulation by the issue of Bank of England notes, rather than extend their own circulation against the same; and were Bank of England notes to be made a legal tender in Ireland and Scotland, this remark might be equally applied there.

Moreover, I should imagine that the variations referred to, in the extent of the circulation of the English country banks, between April and August, is a matter of necessity, caused by an inability on their part to maintain an increased issue for any lengthened period.

I certainly cannot see any reason for redistributing the amount of decrease of circulation which has taken place amongst those banks which continue to issue; it is but placing them at a still greater advantage over those which have not that power, whilst, at the same time, no objection presents itself to allowing the Bank of England to extend its issues to the full extent of those banks which have ceased to issue, and thus supply the deficiency.

It would seem more in harmony with principles of justice, were they all either to be allowed to become banks of issue, or else prohibited, whether joint-stock or private, from circulating other than Bank of England notes. To this latter arrangement, no doubt many of the country bankers would raise their opposition, but their evidence should be received with caution, from the fact of their being interested parties, and it would rest with the public as to whether such an arrangement would prove suitable to their requirements.

With regard to again issuing bank notes of £1, their former recall would, without doubt, be a formidable obstacle to their free circulation amongst the poorer classes, especially in the country districts; and it would rest more particularly with them in consequence of notes of a higher denomination being more suitable for large transactions, and the accommodation afforded to the more wealthy classes for settlement of the same by cheques on their bankers, &c. It is, however, a question worth considering, should circumstances require it; and hoping to see some other opinion on the subject,

I am, sir, yours truly,
J. A. S.

Chatham, November, 1854,

SIR,—I have read, with great interest, your extracts from the pamphlet written by Mr. J. W. Gilbart on the above question, so far as it affects the circulation of country bank notes in England. I have always held in the greatest estimation the opinions and sentiments of the talented gentleman re-

ferred to, and with the greatest reluctance do I feel compelled to acknowledge myself to differ with him in opinion upon this momentous question. I have carefully looked down the return of the country banks of issue, and find that there are but three or four where the actual circulation exceeds the fixed issue, in any particular week; and the grand total shows upwards of one million below the fixed issues. However much the fear of penalties may deter the private bankers from circulating to the full extent of their fixed issues, it must be admitted that one million is a very great deficiency, and vastly beyond what would be required to keep them within the limit. There are 231 private and joint-stock banks of issue in England, and the deficiency of one million would therefore give an average of £4,000 to each, a sum, in many cases, equivalent to half the circulation. Mr. Gilbert, in alluding to the spirit of the act, seems to have overlooked the fact, that the legislature, in framing the Act of 1844, fixed the issues of private bankers, with a view, not only of providing for the circulation of the country, but also having the great national object in view of checking the undue circulation of that fictitious currency, in the shape of private bank notes, which, in many cases, proved so disastrous to the public at large, a consideration which the people of England would not, I presume, willingly relinquish; and, should it so happen that the circulation of this country be found insufficient, I fully believe that, living as we do in this enlightened age, the people of England will not be content with the increased responsibility of private bankers, but will look up to that great model of public security and founder of the joint-stock principle, the Bank of England, to supply their wants.

I am, your very obedient servant,

Kent, November, 1854.

J. N.

Notes of the Month.

FINANCIAL AND COMMERCIAL.

MR. CHAPMAN, THE NEWCASTLE BANKER.—This gentleman, whose apprehension a few weeks ago for non-payment of liabilities due to the Union Bank of Newcastle-upon-Tyne, of which he was for many years managing director, has been bailed out of prison by his friends. They undertake that he shall not leave the country; but no arrangement has yet been made for settling his accounts with the bank. The case, it is believed, will be prosecuted to a bankruptcy, which will, of course, lead to a full disclosure of his affairs and transactions; but it is possible that his connexions, some of whom are wealthy, will prevent this, by satisfying outstanding claims.

SAVINGS BANKS.—From a parliamentary return just printed, it appears that there are 480 savings banks in England and Wales, which are managed by 517 unpaid and 955 paid officers, at an annual expense of £95,478 14s. 2d. The number of accounts open is 1,068,994, and the total amount owing to depositors £29,467,831 15s. 11d., of which £29,292,211 11s. 5d. is invested with the Commissioners for the Reduction of the National Debt. The number of savings banks in Scotland is 45, in Ireland 51. In the Scotch banks there are 116,113 accounts open, amounting to £1,837,103 11s. 8d.; and in the Irish banks there are 34,470 accounts open, amounting to £1,587,448 11s. 6d. In England the number of receipts from depositors in the year ending November 20. 1853, was 1,093,780, and the average amount of receipts from depositors £5 16s. 9d.; in Scotland the annual number of receipts was 219,546, and the average amount £3 7s. 1d.; in Ireland the number of receipts was 89,060, and the average amount £6 0s. 9d. The English

banks made in the same year 528,238 payments to depositors, averaging £11 10s. 10d. in amount; the Scotch banks made 128,694 payments, averaging £4 10s. 7d. in amount; and the Irish banks made 54,329 payments, averaging £8 2s. 1d. The interest paid to depositors is—in England and Wales, £2 18s. 9d. per cent.; in Scotland, £2 17s. 9d.; and in Ireland, £2 16s. 5d. There are two savings banks in the islands in the British seas, which have 12,953 accounts open, to the amount of £335,009 18s. 2d.; the interest paid is £3 per annum, and the number of receipts from depositors in the year was 7,845, each averaging £7 6s. 7d. in amount—a higher average than in any other part of the united kingdom. The total number of savings banks in the united kingdom is 616, and the total amount which they owe to depositors, £33,227,394 4s. 3d., distributed over 1,253,685 accounts.

PROMISSORY NOTES UNDER FIVE POUNDS.—At the Bloomsbury County Court, on the 15th of November, an action was brought by the North London Loan Company, held at the Seymour's Arms, Upper Seymour-street, to recover the sum of £1 17s. 6d., the balance of a promissory note drawn for the sum of £3 3s. The plaintiffs were about to produce the note, when the defendant's solicitor objected to its reception as evidence, because it had not the signature of an attesting witness, whereas, by the 17th George III., which was further enforced by the 27th of the same reign, it was enacted, for the protection of ignorant persons, that on all bills of exchange drawn for sums varying from £1 to £5, the name of an attesting witness should be attached, with his address and occupation. The Judge said that, under the circumstances, he must dismiss the summons. The plaintiff was accordingly nonsuited.

ST. MARYLEBONE SAVINGS BANK.—The following comparative statement of progress at specified periods during the last seven years of the St. Marylebone Bank for Savings, at Welbeck-street, shows the success of the institution and the appreciation of the public:—

	Open deposit Accounts.	Sums invested with National Debt Commis- sioners.
On the 20th of November, 1848	£19,019	£291,386
On the 20th of November, 1849	20,382	311,694
On the 20th of November, 1850	21,110	321,775
On the 20th of November, 1851	22,176	344,034
On the 20th of November, 1852	22,714	384,526
On the 20th of November, 1853	28,308	367,973
On the 20th of November, 1854	23,227	351,260

DELAY IN COLONIAL AND FOREIGN LINES.—Owing to the Government having chartered the Niagara and the Arabia, belonging to the Cunard line, the Magdalena, of the West India line, and the Tamar, of the Brazil line, the mail services on those routes will be temporarily interrupted. The next Cunard steamer will be the America (for Halifax and Boston), on the 9th of December. As regards the West India service, the mail of the 2nd of December will be despatched in due course on the 2nd of December by the Parana for the West Indies and Mexico, but there will be no steamer on the 17th of December. On the Brazil line, the mail of the 9th of December will be omitted.

DEATH OF A LARGE FUNDHOLDER IN A WORKHOUSE.—An elderly female, on the 25th of August, was taken to the Workhouse of the Holborn Union, having been run over by a cab in Liquorpond Street, has just died in the institution. From memoranda found upon her since her death, it appears that she is possessed of funded property to the extent of £5,000. The sum of £50 was found upon her, the balance of which sum, after payment of her funeral and other expenses, will be handed over to the Treasury, in the event of none of her friends coming forward to claim her property. The name of "Miss Mary Bell" was written on a Stock Note found upon her, which is therefore supposed to be her name.

AN OLD BANKER'S ESTATE.—At the Court of Bankruptcy, on the 21st of November, a further small dividend was ordered under the old estate of Messrs. Lee, Brassey, Far and Lee, bankers, of Lombard-street, who failed about thirty years since. The amount will be fractional, as it will proceed from £700 recently received by the assignees.

BANK MOVEMENTS.

A new bank is proposed at Melbourne, to be called the Melbourne and Geelong Banking Company, and it is to allow interest on deposits ranging, according to their character, from 1 per cent. to 3 per cent.

The Oriental Bank have notified payment of a half-yearly dividend at the rate of 10 per cent., free of Income-tax.

Monetary Intelligence.

REVIEW OF THE MONEY MARKET FOR THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER, 1854.

STIRRING as have been the events in connexion with hostilities in the Crimea, they have only partially affected the course of monetary operations. The details of the battles at Balaklava and Inkermann, while exhibiting the indomitable prowess of the allied forces, have, nevertheless, presented in strong colours, the obstinacy of the struggle to prevent the capture of Sebastopol. Although little doubt is entertained of the ultimate success of the attack, the hardships to which our troops have been exposed, have been almost unparalleled—the prospect of a winter campaign being a disagreeable feature in the proceedings. Under these circumstances, there has been much discussion with regard to the financial position of the Government; and, since it is plainly perceived, that the enormous expenditure involved cannot be supported without a fresh appeal to the country, either in the shape of augmented taxation, or a rearrangement of existing burdens, some alarm has ensued, and, such has been the effect upon the stock-markets, that the state of business at one period nearly resembled a panic. While the excitement was at its height, there was a rumour to the effect that Mr. Gladstone had negotiated the remaining £2,000,000 of Exchequer bonds, authorised last session, with the National Debt Commissioners, and that sales of stock were being made on his account under the arrangement affected. This naturally increased the sensitiveness of quotations; and the retrogressive movement continued until an explanation was volunteered. Although it was not distinctly denied that operations had taken place on the part of Government, it was, at the same time, shown that their supposed basis was incorrect. To increase the prevailing depression, the Scotch banks have exhibited a disposition to realise some of their funded securities; an example which has likewise been followed by several insurance companies. With these concurrent transactions, the reaction that has latterly taken place, is rather remarkable, particularly as there is every reason to anticipate a loan for France, of from £20,000,000 to £24,000,000, as soon as the preliminaries can be completed. During all this perturbation at the Stock Exchange, the settlements of the accounts increasing the confusion, an active demand prevailed for money, which, as it brought from 4 to 5 per cent. on

Consols, increased the terms out of doors for accommodation. There is now less pressure experienced; but, trade being dull, and the appearance of the future not encouraging, the rate for first class paper ranges from $4\frac{3}{4}$ to 5 per cent. The bill brokers allow 4 per cent. for deposits. It is feared that the state of the foreign exchanges will again cause an efflux of specie; and the supplies from Australia have latterly diminished. American credit has sustained a further shock from extensive failures, the results of which cannot be accurately estimated.

So wide a range in fluctuation as that which has recently occurred, has not been witnessed in English securities for some little time. At the close of October, there was a drooping tendency observable; but it was not until the early part of November, that a material decline followed. Heavy sales, both *bonâ fide* and speculative, were then effected; and the consequence was, a gradual retrogression in Consols from 95 to $90\frac{1}{2}$. From the lowest point a rally has since taken place to 92; but the market continues in an unsettled position, owing to the prevalence of conflicting political and financial rumours.

Foreign securities and railway shares have also participated in this unfavourable movement, but not to the same extent as Consols. In these particular departments the operations have been on a scale of less magnitude, although the dealers cannot complain of inactivity. Turkish scrip forms the important exception, the changes in value having been violent and frequent. In addition to the general causes which have influenced its quotation, the circumstance of the failure of two brokers, who had purchased largely for the rise, has likewise exercised a prejudicial effect. At the commencement of the month, it was 2 premium from thence it descended to 9 discount; and it is now (the 27th Nov.) marked $6\frac{1}{2}$ discount. With the reaction in English securities, a corresponding advance has occurred in other descriptions; and, whereas the original fall was from 2 to 4 per cent., it may at present be computed as from 1 to 3 per cent. The aggregate of railway traffic is considered to be well supported for the season of the year.

The Peruvian Chargé d'Affaires has announced an increase of the sinking fund from its present rate of 1 per cent. to 4 per cent., on those portions of the Peruvian domestic debt which have lately been attempted to be introduced on the English Stock Exchange, but which the committee, in the strict performance of their duty to the public, have refused to allow to be quoted. The advertisement also repeats the hitherto ineffective offer of increasing the sinking fund on the foreign debt, whenever the committee will consent to the introduction of the bonds in question.

The produce markets have been quiet. There is no great variation in sugar or coffee; rice has slightly declined; the sales of tea, despite the state of business in China, have not established enhanced quotations; saltpetre has partially recovered the late depression, in consequence of the apprehension of prolonged hostilities.

ENGLISH FUNDS.

		Price on October 28.	Highest.	Lowest.	Price on November 27.
Consols	..	$94\frac{1}{2}$ to $94\frac{3}{4}$	95	$90\frac{1}{2}$	92
Exchequer bills' average ..	..	6s. to 9s. pm.	9s. pm.	1s. pm.	3 to 6 pm.

FOREIGN STOCKS.

Brazilian	..	—	$99\frac{1}{2}$	97	$98\frac{1}{2}$
Buenos Ayres	..	56	59	55	56
Chilian	..	104	104	102	102
Dutch	..	61	$61\frac{1}{2}$	60	61
Mexican	..	23 ex. div.	$23\frac{1}{2}$ ex. div.	$21\frac{1}{2}$	$21\frac{1}{2}$

	Price on Oct. 29.	Highest.	Lowest.	Price on Nov. 27.
Peruvian, 4½ per cent. ..	71½	71½	65	68½
Portuguese, 4 per cent. ..	—	44	40	43½
Russian	95½	97	95	95½
Spanish	38	38½	37½	38

RAILWAY SHARES.

Brighton	104½	107	104	105
Caledonian	61	61½	58½	60
Eastern Counties	11½	11½	11½	11½
Great Northern	96½	91	88	88½
Great Western	71	71½	68½	70
London and North Western	101½	102½	97½	99½
Midland	69	71½	66½	67½
Lancashire and Yorkshire ..	72½	73½	69½	71
North Staffordshire	13½	13½	13	13
South Eastern	62	63	58½	59
South Western	81½	82½	79	79
York, Newcastle and Berwick	76½	77½	75	75
York and North Midland ..	53½	54½	51	51½
Northern of France	35½	35½	33	33½
East Indian	—	23½	22½	22½

THE GRAIN TRADE.

ALTHOUGH the late extreme advance in Wheat has not been maintained, there is yet much firmness in the market. A reaction of 2s. or 4s. on the highest quotations must be regarded as limited, compared with the great improvement which has lately taken place, and which has been supported beyond general expectation. The arrivals throughout the month have been moderate; and were it not for the favourable state of the weather for agricultural operations, the highest rates would in all probability have not been interfered with. As it is, there is now a tendency to decline, but the general prediction runs in favour of a full average being hereafter current for the winter season.

THE *Gazette* returns for England and Wales have been—

Week ended 1854.	Wheat. Qrs. sold.	Weekly Average. s. d.	Six Weeks' Average. s. d.	Duty. s. d.	Corresponding Six Weeks Last Year. s. d.
Oct. 28.....	144,842 ..	60 7 ..	56 9 ..	1 0 ..	64 5
Nov. 4.....	137,097 ..	68 0 ..	59 3 ..	1 0 ..	66 11
„ 11.....	114,174 ..	72 1 ..	62 0 ..	1 0 ..	69 3
„ 18.....	132,655 ..	72 11 ..	64 6 ..	1 0 ..	70 9

The importations since the harvest of 1853 have been—

	Wheat. Qrs.	Other grain. Qrs.	Total. Qrs.
Sixty-five weeks ended 18th Oct.....	6,018,283	4,332,412	10,350,695
Four weeks ended 15th Nov.....	64,016	118,095	182,111
	6,082,299	4,450,507	10,532,806

And the weekly averages have been—

Sixty-five weeks ended 18th Oct. ..	92,000	67,000	159,000
Four weeks ended 15th Nov.	16,000	29,000	45,000
	Less 76,000	38,000	114,000

STATE OF TRADE.

THERE is increased depression in the manufacturing districts. The accounts from Bradford are most discouraging, and the prospect of revival seems rather remote. At Manchester, Birmingham and Leeds, a diminished business has been transacted; and while the Australian and American advices wear their present unfavourable appearance, we can look for no material improvement.

EAST INDIA REMITTANCES.

AMOUNT OF BILLS DRAWN FOR.

From the 25th October to the 8th November	{	Bengal....	£48,983	5	8
		Madras ..	22,696	12	7
		Bombay ..	6,637	10	0
From the 9th to the 24th of November	{	Bengal....	40,706	6	6
		Madras ..	14,206	4	2
		Bombay ..	100	0	0
			£133,329	18	11

MONTHLY CHRONOLOGY.

Nov. 1.—Intelligence received of the battle of Balaklava having been fought on the 25th October.

9.—Failure of the Knickerbocker Bank, New York; also of Farmer's Bank, Saratoga County, announced.

13.—Received the news of the great battle of Inkermann having been fought on the 5th instant.

14.—Suspension of Messrs. Clay and Gillman notified; also of Messrs. Hambleton and Sons, an importing house at Baltimore; Messrs. E. G. Merrick and Co., of Buffalo. The Metropolitan Insurance Companies of Boston, and the Lewis County Bank of New York.

21.—Failures announced of Messrs. J. A. Westervelt and Co., Shipbuilders; and Messrs. E. M. Livermore and Co., in the Wool trade, both of New York; with a variety of others, including a number of small banking establishments, corporate and private.

22.—Suspension of Mr. A. Tonnelier, of Antwerp.

23.—News arrived of a naval engagement at Petropaulovski, in the Pacific, on the 4th September. Admiral Price, Commander of the Fleet, committed suicide.

Forgeries announced by Mr. H. Meiggs, of San Francisco, California.

25.—Intimation received of another great battle before Sebastopol.

Visit of Lord Palmerston to Paris, and subsequent interview with Louis

Napoleon on the question of reinforcements to the Crimea.

Failure of W. Price, General Merchant of Quebec.

27.—Parliament announced to meet for business on the 12th December.

NOTICES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Some communications and reviews stand over for want of space. All letters, unless they involve important questions, should be sent by the 20th of the month.

ALEX.—The bank alluded to has commenced business, but its operations are not extensive. A re-organization might possibly effect the object.

X. S. (Reigate).—Several volumes have been published and as works of reference they will be found useful.

INVESTIGATOR.—Mr. C. Malthy, the supposed accomplice of Mr. J. W. Cole, in the circulation of fictitious warrants, has been captured, and committed for trial.

The writer of the article on the Scottish Banking System will be pleased to favour us with his address

THE ENGLISH FUNDS.—Daily Prices from 28th October, 1854, to 28th November, 1854, inclusive.

	28	30	31	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	27	28
Bank Stock (div. 9 per Ct.).	213	213	213	211	211	211	212	212	212	212	211	211	211	211	212	212	212	212	212	212	212	212	212	212	212	212	212	212	212	212
3 per Ct. Red. Anns.	93	93	93	93	93	93	93	93	93	93	93	93	93	93	93	93	93	93	93	93	93	93	93	93	93	93	93	93	93	93
3 per Ct. Consols.	94	94	94	94	94	94	94	94	94	94	94	94	94	94	94	94	94	94	94	94	94	94	94	94	94	94	94	94	94	94
New 3 per cent. Anns.	93	93	93	93	93	93	93	93	93	93	93	93	93	93	93	93	93	93	93	93	93	93	93	93	93	93	93	93	93	93
New 2½ per cent.	81	81	81	81	81	81	81	81	81	81	81	81	81	81	81	81	81	81	81	81	81	81	81	81	81	81	81	81	81	81
Long Anna, Jan. 5, 1860	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
Ditto 30 years, Oct. 10, 1859	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
Ditto 30 years, Jan. 5, 1860	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
India Stock (div. 10½ percent.)	13p	13p	13p	13p	13p	13p	13p	13p	13p	13p	13p	13p	13p	13p	13p	13p	13p	13p	13p	13p	13p	13p	13p	13p	13p	13p	13p	13p	13p	13p
Ditto Bonds (div. 10½ percent.)	10p	10p	10p	10p	10p	10p	10p	10p	10p	10p	10p	10p	10p	10p	10p	10p	10p	10p	10p	10p	10p	10p	10p	10p	10p	10p	10p	10p	10p	10p
South Sea Stock (div. 3 p. c.)	94	94	94	94	94	94	94	94	94	94	94	94	94	94	94	94	94	94	94	94	94	94	94	94	94	94	94	94	94	94
Bank Stock for ac. 7th Dec.	94	94	94	94	94	94	94	94	94	94	94	94	94	94	94	94	94	94	94	94	94	94	94	94	94	94	94	94	94	94
3 p. Ct. Cons. for ac. 14th Nov.	94	94	94	94	94	94	94	94	94	94	94	94	94	94	94	94	94	94	94	94	94	94	94	94	94	94	94	94	94	94
Ditto, 7th December	94	94	94	94	94	94	94	94	94	94	94	94	94	94	94	94	94	94	94	94	94	94	94	94	94	94	94	94	94	94
India Stock for ac. 7th Dec.	94	94	94	94	94	94	94	94	94	94	94	94	94	94	94	94	94	94	94	94	94	94	94	94	94	94	94	94	94	94
Ex. Bills. £1000, 21d. per diem	6p	6p	6p	6p	6p	6p	6p	6p	6p	6p	6p	6p	6p	6p	6p	6p	6p	6p	6p	6p	6p	6p	6p	6p	6p	6p	6p	6p	6p	6p
Ditto. Small do.	6p	6p	6p	6p	6p	6p	6p	6p	6p	6p	6p	6p	6p	6p	6p	6p	6p	6p	6p	6p	6p	6p	6p	6p	6p	6p	6p	6p	6p	6p
Ditto Bonds scrip A 1858 3 p. c.	93	93	93	93	93	93	93	93	93	93	93	93	93	93	93	93	93	93	93	93	93	93	93	93	93	93	93	93	93	93
Ditto Scrip B 1859	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

JOINT-STOCK BANKS.

	London	Latest Prices.
Australasia	£40 ab.,	£40 0 pd., £81
British North American	50	50 0
Commercial of London	100	20 0
Colonial	100	25 0
London and Westminster	100	20 0
London Joint Stock	50	10 0
Oriental Bank	25	25 0
Provincial of Ireland	50	25 0
National Provincial of England	100	25 0
South Australian	25	25 0
Union of Australia	50	10 0
London and County	50	20 0
London Chartered of Australia	20	20 0
English, Scottish, and Australian Chartered	20	16 0
Bank of India, China, and	20	2 0
Australia	20	20 0
New South Wales	20	20 0

FOREIGN STOCKS (27th November.)

Brazilian Bonds, 5 per Cent.	98½
Chilian Bonds, 6 per Cent.	102
Danish 5 per Cent.	99
Mexican 3 per Cent.	21½
Peruvian 4½ per Cent.	98½
Portuguese Bonds, 4 per Cent.	43
Russian Bonds, 1852, 5 per Cent. in £ Ster.	86
Ditto, 4½ per Cent.	86
Spanish Bonds 3 per Cent.	37½
Ditto, 3 per Cent. Deferred	18½
(Dividends on the above payable in London.)	
Austrian 5 per Cent.	—
Belgian Bonds, 4½ per Cent.	61
Dutch 3½ per Cent.	—
Ditto 4 per Cent. Loan	93½
French 4½ per Cent., at Paris, Nov. 25, 94½, 50c.	—
Ditto 3 per Cent., ditto	71½, 45c.

RAILWAY SHARES.

	Constat.	Paid up	Prices Nov. 27.
Caledonian ..	..	£ 100	89
Eastern Counties ..	..	.. 20	11½
Great Northern ..	..	.. 100	90
Great Western ..	..	.. 100	86½
London and Blackwall	..	.. 12½	70
London and Brighton	..	.. 100	8
North-West ..	..	.. 100	104
South-West ..	..	.. 100	99½
Midland ..	..	.. 100	81½
North British ..	..	.. 100	64½
South-Eastern ..	..	.. 100	34
York, Newcastle & Berwick	..	.. 100	61½
York & North Midland ..	..	.. 100	76
			51½

The closing prices of the day are quoted.

Bank of England Weekly Returns.

Account, pursuant to the Act 7th and 8th of Victoria, cap. 32, for the Weeks ending as follows

ISSUE DEPARTMENT.

	1854. Oct. 21st.	1854. Oct. 28th.	1854. Nov. 4th.	1854. Nov. 11th.
	£	£	£	£
Notes issued.....	26,813,125	27,022,310	26,969,950	26,999,380
Government debt.....	11,015,100	11,015,100	11,015,100	11,015,100
Other securities.....	2,984,900	2,984,900	2,984,900	2,984,900
Gold coin and bullion.....	12,818,125	13,022,310	12,969,950	12,999,380
Silver bullion.....	—	—	—	—
	26,818,125	27,022,310	26,969,950	26,999,380

BANKING DEPARTMENT.

	1854. Oct. 21st.	1854. Oct. 28th.	1854. Nov. 4th.	1854. Nov. 11th.
	£	£	£	£
Proprietors' capital.....	14,553,000	14,553,000	14,553,000	14,553,000
Reserve.....	3,125,834	3,132,547	3,130,873	3,166,672
Public deposits (including Ex- chequer, Savings Banks, Com- missioners of National Debt, and Dividend Accounts)	1,893,487	1,905,513	2,858,100	3,325,877
Other deposits.....	11,702,867	11,441,511	10,932,023	10,343,333
Seven day and other bills.....	1,115,006	1,130,644	1,120,999	1,114,873
	32,390,194	32,163,215	32,600,997	32,602,557
Government securities (including Dead Weight Annuity).....	11,113,273	10,960,762	11,524,492	11,413,616
Other securities.....	14,742,463	14,556,912	14,153,089	13,899,081
Notes.....	5,946,605	6,086,425	6,366,340	6,710,343
Gold and silver coin.....	587,853	559,116	535,076	589,413
	32,390,194	32,163,215	32,600,997	32,602,557

The Exchanges.

	Oct. 20th.	Oct. 27th.	Nov. 3rd.	Nov. 10th.
Amsterdam, short ..	11 16½	11 16½	11 16	11 15½
Ditto 3 months..	11 18	11 17½	11 17½	11 17½
Rotterdam, ditto ..	11 18½	11 17½	11 18	11 17½
Antwerp, ditto ..	25 40	25 37½	25 35	25 35
Brussels, ditto.....	25 40	25 37½	25 35	25 35
Hamburg, ditto.....	13 6½	13 6½	13 7	13 6½
Paris, short ..	25 12½	25 12½	25 12½	25 10
Paris, 3 months ..	25 37½	25 37½	25 35	25 35
Marseilles, ditto ..	25 37½	25 37	25 37½	25 35
Frankfort, ditto ..	118½	118½	118½	118½
Vienna, ditto.....	11 54	12 6	12 5	12 11
Trieste, ditto.....	11 56	12 8	12 7	12 12
Petersburgh, ditto ..	35½	35	34½	35
Madrid, ditto ..	50	50	50	50
Cadix, ditto ..	50½	50½	50½	50½
Leghorn, ditto ..	30 50	30 50	30 50	30 45½
Genoa, ditto ..	25 50	25 50	25 50	25 45
Naples, ditto.....	43½	43½	43½	43½
Palermo, ditto ..	128½	128½	128½	128½
Messina, ditto ..	128½	128½	128½	128½
Lisbon, 60 days' date	53	53½	53½	53½
Oporto, ditto ..	53½	53½	53½	53½
Rio Janeiro, ditto ..	—	—	—	—

PRICES OF BULLION.

	Per Ounce.	Per Ounce.	Per Ounce.	Per Ounce.
Foreign Gold in Bars, (Standard).....	£3 17 9	£3 17 9	£3 17 9	£3 17 9
Mexican Dollars ..	0 0 0	0 5 0	0 5 0	0 5 0
Silver in Bars (Stand.)	0 5 1½	0 5 1½	0 5 1½	0 5 1½

Bankers' Weekly Circulation Returns.

Pursuant to the Act 7 & 8 Victoria, c. 32: extracted from the LONDON GAZETTES.

PRIVATE BANKS.

NAME OF BANK.	Authorised Issue.	AVERAGE AMOUNT.			
		Oct. 7.	Oct. 14.	Oct. 21.	Oct. 28.
	£	£	£	£	£
1 Andover Bank	17,751	12,445	14,845	15,074	14,641
2 Ashford Bank	11,849	12,497	12,530	10,963	9,902
3 Aylsham Bank	5,854	4,936	5,383	5,386	5,156
4 Aylesbury Old Bank	48,461	28,966	30,630	31,880	31,166
5 Baldock and Biggleswade Bank	37,223	26,564	27,189	27,995	28,460
6 Barnstaple Bank	17,182	11,110	11,487	11,025	12,325
7 Basingstoke and Odiham Bank	24,730	20,535	22,153	21,290	20,845
8 Bedford Bank	34,218	35,277	36,203	33,207	31,734
9 Bewdley Bank	18,597	11,959	12,210	12,322	12,507
10 Bicester and Oxfordshire Bank	27,090	13,410	14,972	14,523	14,223
11 Birmingham Bank—Attwoods & Co.	23,695	26,312	23,015	22,049	23,346
12 Birmingham and Warwickshire Bk.	18,132	11,190	11,392	11,456	10,945
13 Blandford Bank	9,723	7,392	7,673	7,315	7,223
14 Boston Bank—Garfit and Co.	75,069	73,580	72,424	69,790	73,681
15 Boston Bank—Gee and Co.	15,161	14,680	15,056	14,801	14,932
16 Bridgewater Bank	10,028	5,974	5,940	6,371	6,623
17 Bristol Bank	48,277	39,400	45,205	47,703	46,453
18 Brosely and Bridgenorth Bank	26,717	16,677	17,559	18,021	18,540
19 Buckingham Bank	29,557	23,099	23,561	23,110	22,331
20 Bury and Suffolk Bank	82,362	66,887	69,636	72,582	72,405
21 Banbury Bank	43,457	32,387	33,934	34,937	35,282
22 Banbury Old Bank	55,153	26,892	27,961	29,300	29,860
23 Bath City Bank	4,572	3,384	3,367	3,466	3,345
24 Bedfordshire Leighton Buzzard Bk.	36,829	34,462	34,844	34,750	39,042
25 Birmingham Bk.—Taylor & Lloyds	38,816	33,688	36,663	38,908	36,840
26 Bradford Old Bank	12,676	12,740	12,980	12,800	11,577
27 Brecon Old Bank	68,271	67,891	67,835	67,685	65,287
28 Brighton Union Bank	33,794	22,617	22,643	23,050	23,235
29 Burlington and Driffield Bank	12,745	12,436	12,560	12,239	12,592
30 Bury St. Edmund's Bank	3,201	2,868	3,147	3,374	3,338
31 Cambridge Bk.—Mortlock & Co.	25,744	12,980	14,516	15,367	15,936
32 Cambridge and Cambridgeshire Bk.	49,916	48,116	48,947	49,008	49,776
33 Canterbury Bank	33,671	33,295	36,107	34,155	29,169
34 Carmarthen Bank	23,597	23,858	23,813	23,123	23,327
35 Chertsey Bank	3,436	4,102	3,274	3,164	3,087
36 Colchester Bank	25,082	17,381	16,855	17,455	16,573
37 Colchester and Essex Bank	48,704	31,995	34,299	34,765	33,187
38 Cornish Bank—Tweedy & Co.	49,869	51,045	50,818	47,942	44,790
39 Coventry Bank	12,045	6,067	6,300	6,937	6,585
40 City Bank, Exeter	21,527	19,263	20,495	20,873	20,895
41 Craven Bank—Alcocks & Co.	77,154	76,787	76,129	75,395	75,475
42 Cardiff Bank	7,001	6,563	6,919	6,902	6,920
43 Chepstow Old Bank	9,387	9,759	9,865	8,808	8,113
44 Derby Bank—Messrs. Evans	13,332	11,907	12,032	11,947	11,540
45 Derby Bank—Smith and Co.	41,304	42,535	41,803	40,080	37,887
46 Derby Old Bank	27,237	27,562	27,746	26,256	26,203
47 Devizes and Wiltshire Bank	20,674	8,955	9,051	9,592	9,404
48 Diss Bank	10,657	10,476	10,020	10,577	10,010
49 Doncaster Bank and Retford Bank	77,400	78,076	79,932	80,743	77,404
50 Darlington Bank	86,218	87,001	86,583	83,786	85,495
51 Devonport Bank	10,664	9,357	9,636	9,863	9,486
52 Dorchester Old Bank	48,807	49,549	49,481	47,533	46,312
53 East Cornwall Bk.—Robins & Co.	112,280	107,183	107,814	106,991	109,184
54 East Riding Bank—Bower & Co.	53,392	53,584	55,646	52,727	50,604
55 Essex Bk. & Bishops Stortford Bk.	69,637	46,187	46,194	47,114	45,538
56 Exeter Bank	37,894	30,251	30,147	31,097	31,175
57 Fakenham Bank	24,293	22,620	24,925	23,479	21,460

WEEKLY RETURNS OF BANKS OF ISSUE.

NAME OF BANK.	Authorised Issue.	AVERAGE AMOUNT.			
		Oct. 7.	Oct. 14.	Oct. 21.	Oct. 28.
	£	£	£	£	£
58 Faringdon Bk. & Bk. of Wantage	8,977	7,930	7,452	7,139	7,025
59 Farnham Bank.....	14,102	10,532	10,574	11,633	12,160
60 Faversham Bank.....	6,681	6,766	6,895	5,443	5,300
61 Godalming Bank.....	6,322	5,967	5,941	5,798	5,335
62 Guildford Bank.....	14,524	5,791	6,231	6,848	7,240
63 Grantham Bank—Hardy and Co.	30,372	27,865	29,053	28,277	27,553
64 Hastings Old Bank.....	38,038	29,230	30,760	31,372	31,283
65 Hereford City and County Bank..	22,364	15,432	16,945	20,100	23,026
66 Hertford and Ware Bank.....	23,635	12,506	13,998	15,410	15,420
67 Hull & Kingston-upon-Hull Bank	19,979	20,392	20,778	19,765	18,712
68 Huntingdon Town & County Bank	56,591	49,183	54,716	57,176	56,409
69 Harwich Bank.....	5,778	5,259	5,560	5,582	5,801
70 Hemel Hempstead Bank.....	23,842	23,647	23,352	23,035	22,736
71 Hertfordshire, Hitchin Bank.....	38,764	31,187	32,433	31,839	32,051
72 Hereford, Ross, & Archenfield Bk.	22,625	21,544	22,170	23,681	25,179
73 Ipswich Bank.....	21,901	18,925	20,510	20,120	19,824
74 Ipswich & Needham Market Bank	80,699	63,585	68,194	68,974	67,462
75 Kentish Bank—Mercer & Co. ...	19,895	15,029	16,565	18,476	20,179
76 Kington and Radnorshire Bank...	26,050	27,221	25,864	25,522	25,412
77 Knighton Bank.....	9,090	9,506	9,248	8,880	8,710
78 Knaresborough Old Bank.....	21,825	22,242	21,840	21,051	20,389
79 Kendal Bank.....	44,663	42,720	43,620	44,317	44,605
80 Kettering Bank.....	9,192	10,087	9,375	8,810	8,346
81 Lane End Staffordshire Bank ...	5,624	5,278	5,207	5,412	5,376
82 Leeds Bank.....	53,357	53,882	54,416	52,261	51,643
83 Leeds Union Bank.....	37,459	38,035	37,726	36,299	37,700
84 Leicester Bank.....	32,322	25,767	30,594	31,648	30,417
85 Lewes Old Bank.....	44,836	29,251	29,236	29,818	30,188
86 Lichfield Bank.....	22,786	11,604	13,139	12,855	11,835
87 Lincoln Bank.....	100,342	84,705	89,446	93,826	96,925
88 Llandoverly Bank & Llandilo Bank	32,945	23,784	26,282	27,722	27,541
89 Loughborough Bank.....	7,359	7,449	7,510	7,280	6,716
90 Lymington Bank.....	5,038	4,213	4,362	4,295	4,145
91 Lynn Regis and Lincolnshire Bank	42,817	34,985	38,385	39,000	39,619
92 Lynn Regis and Norfolk Bank ...	13,917	12,923	13,495	13,652	13,399
93 Macclesfield Bank.....	15,760	15,065	15,110	15,403	15,435
94 Manningtree Bank.....	7,692	2,486	2,696	2,686	2,735
95 Merionethshire Bank.....	10,906	9,263	9,172	9,984	10,823
96 Miners' Bank.....	18,688	15,890	16,588	16,681	16,999
97 Monmouthshire Agricultural and Commercial Bank.....	29,335	30,066	31,583	27,110	28,286
98 Monmouth Old Bank.....	16,385	16,333	16,486	15,858	15,494
99 Newark Bank.....	28,788	20,720	22,908	23,718	24,539
100 Newark and Sleaford Bank.....	51,615	48,641	50,195	49,300	53,101
101 Newbury Bank.....	36,787	19,995	22,402	23,842	23,860
102 Newmarket Bank.....	23,098	17,825	19,919	21,037	21,759
103 Norwich Crown Bank and Norfolk and Suffolk Bank.....	49,671	49,911	49,515	47,565	47,304
104 Norwich and Norfolk Bank.....	75,372	70,873	75,093	73,481	74,020
105 Nottingham, Nottinghamshire ...	10,866	10,186	10,270	10,172	9,912
106 Nuneaton Bank.....	5,898	2,910	3,103	3,535	3,437
107 Naval Bank, Plymouth.....	27,321	23,726	24,730	24,863	24,942
108 New Sarum Bk.—Everett & Smith	15,659	13,192	13,387	12,901	12,249
109 Nottingham Bank.....	31,047	29,595	28,374	27,991	28,866
110 Oswestry Bank.....	18,471	10,294	10,750	10,797	10,921
111 Oxford Old Bank.....	34,391	28,292	28,290	28,930	31,376
112 Old Bank, Tonbridge.....	13,183	8,305	8,428	9,050	9,325
113 Oxfordshire Witney Bank.....	11,852	11,227	10,520	10,044	9,598
114 Pease's Old Bank, Hull.....	48,807	46,688	47,368	47,753	47,918
115 Penzance Bank.....	11,405	10,943	10,916	10,925	10,263
116 Peterborough Bank—Yorke & Co.	12,545	10,840	11,296	10,726	10,101

WEEKLY RETURNS OF BANKS OF ISSUE.

NAME OF BANK.	Authorised Issue.	AVERAGE AMOUNT.			
		Oct. 7.	Oct. 14.	Oct. 21.	Oct. 28.
	£	£	£	£	£
117 Pembrokeshire Bank	12,910	13,599	12,500	13,164	12,276
118 Reading Bank—Simmonds & Co.	37,519	28,399	29,359	30,040	29,709
119 Reading Bk.—Stephens & Blandy	43,271	27,664	28,245	23,430	29,145
120 Richmond Bank, Richmond	6,889	7,030	6,882	6,748	6,695
121 Rochdale Bank	5,590	5,368	4,990	5,170	5,376
122 Rochester, Chatham, & Strood Bk.	10,480	8,752	9,341	8,938	8,604
123 Royston Bank	16,393	13,460	13,813	14,415	14,972
124 Rugby Bank	17,250	10,528	10,872	10,856	10,155
125 Rye Bank	29,864	15,060	16,365	16,734	16,234
126 Ross Old Bank, Herefordshire	4,420	4,279	4,471	4,447	4,172
127 Saffron Walden & North Essex Bk.	47,646	24,357	25,992	27,650	25,810
128 Salop Bank	22,338	15,497	15,851	16,250	15,993
129 Scarborough Old Bank	24,813	24,498	24,490	24,748	20,479
130 Shrewsbury Old Bank	43,191	38,243	39,899	40,228	38,553
131 Sittingbourne and Milton Bank....	4,789	2,742	3,145	3,648	3,128
132 Southampton Town & County Bk.	18,589	16,516	16,271	16,523	15,550
133 Southwell Bank	14,744	11,975	12,402	12,923	13,394
134 Southampton and Hampshire Bk.	6,770	3,966	3,824	4,030	3,856
135 Stone Bank	9,157	370	370	370	370
136 Stafford Old Bank	14,166	10,847	10,424	10,996	11,399
137 Stamford and Rutland Bank	31,858	28,374	31,722	32,585	33,182
138 Shrewsbury and Welsh Pool Bank	25,336	23,905	24,353	25,355	24,819
139 Taunton Bank	29,799	26,775	26,476	26,404	27,708
140 Tavistock Bank	13,421	6,911	8,733	8,176	7,628
141 Thornbury Bank	10,026	5,523	5,125	5,058	4,849
142 Tiverton and Devonshire Bank	13,470	10,318	10,487	10,348	10,976
143 Thrapstone and Kettering Bank..	11,559	11,710	11,737	11,326	10,869
144 Tring Bank and Chesham Bank..	13,531	11,730	11,837	12,140	12,178
145 Towcester Old Bank	10,801	8,681	8,725	8,544	8,576
146 Town and County of Poole Bk. and Ringwood and Poole Bk.	11,856	10,537	11,461	11,634	12,403
147 Union Bank, Cornwall	17,003	13,328	14,214	13,637	13,848
148 Uxbridge Old Bank	25,136	14,926	15,321	14,902	15,504
149 Wallingford Bank	17,064	6,387	6,535	6,975	7,131
150 Warwick and Warwickshire Bank	30,504	23,026	24,022	25,112	23,439
151 Wellington Bank, Somerset	6,518	6,612	6,567	5,975	5,730
152 West Riding Bank	46,158	47,468	48,303	44,694	44,090
153 Whithy Old Bank	14,258	14,160	14,274	14,180	13,942
154 Winchester, Alresford & Alton Bk.	25,892	21,058	21,032	21,408	22,840
155 Weymouth Old Bank	16,461	15,946	16,920	18,360	16,303
156 Wirksworth and Derbyshire Bk.	37,602	36,299	39,074	37,837	35,687
157 Wisbeach and Lincolnshire Bank	59,713	54,742	60,648	62,700	57,260
158 Wiveliscombe Bank	7,602	7,751	7,420	7,325	7,102
159 Wolverhampton Bk.—Goodricke	14,180	13,879	14,183	14,080	13,955
160 Worcester Bank	15,463	6,530	6,883	6,965	7,222
161 Worcester Old Bank	87,448	71,061	75,481	78,038	80,645
162 Worcester Bank	14,309	9,205	9,140	8,798	9,173
163 Wolverham. Bk.—R. & W. Fryer	11,867	11,468	12,045	11,762	11,406
164 Yarmouth and Suffolk Bank	53,060	41,669	47,058	47,570	45,579
165 Yarmouth, Norfolk, & Suffolk Bk.	13,229	13,036	13,912	11,928	11,751
166 York Bank	46,387	42,445	45,473	47,114	48,132

JOINT STOCK BANKS.

1 Bank of Westmoreland	12,225	9,094	9,339	9,638	9,194
2 Barnsley Banking Company	9,563	9,449	9,589	9,474	9,325
3 Bradford Banking Company	49,292	50,247	50,739	48,516	47,641
4 Bilston District Banking Company	9,418	8,746	10,347	8,666	8,823
5 Bank of Whitehaven	32,681	30,996	31,730	32,306	32,510
6 Bradford Commercial Banking Co.	20,084	20,472	19,982	20,074	19,179
7 Burton, Uttoxeter, and Staffordshire Union Bank	60,701	50,078	52,296	51,381	51,238

WEEKLY RETURNS OF BANKS OF ISSUE.

NAME OF BANK.	Authorised Issue.	AVERAGE AMOUNT.			
		Oct. 7.	Oct. 14.	Oct. 21.	Oct. 28.
	£	£	£	£	£
8 Chesterfield & N. Derbysh. Bk. Co.	10,421	10,012	10,383	11,060	10,261
9 Cumberland Union Banking Co....	35,395	35,699	35,436	33,970	34,124
10 Cheltenham & Glo'stershire Bk. Co.	12,786	9,113	9,510	9,725	9,909
11 Coventry and Warwickshire Bk. Co.	28,734	25,456	25,385	24,712	23,720
12 Coventry Union Banking Company	16,251	15,230	15,483	15,696	15,847
13 County of Gloucester Banking Co.	144,352	108,099	108,645	110,756	113,209
14 Carlisle & Cumberland Banking Co.	25,610	27,509	24,823	23,475	26,522
15 Carlisle City and District Bank ...	19,972	20,515	20,123	19,372	19,778
16 Dudley & West Bromwich Bk. Co.	37,696	39,137	37,438	35,500	35,251
17 Derby and Derbyshire Banking Co.	20,093	20,453	19,852	18,265	19,432
18 Darlington Dist. Joint Stock Bk. Co.	26,134	26,958	26,740	25,743	24,951
19 East of England Bank	25,025	26,130	23,871	21,033	24,949
20 Gloucestershire Banking Company	155,920	151,925	154,998	153,802	155,435
21 Halifax Joint Stock Bank.....	18,534	19,216	18,883	18,055	17,275
22 Huddersfield Banking Company...	37,354	33,860	38,746	38,544	36,080
23 Hull Banking Company	29,333	24,592	24,679	25,056	25,920
24 Halifax Commercial Banking Co...	13,733	13,666	13,777	13,870	13,337
25 Halifax & Huddersfield Union Bk.	44,137	41,395	44,039	45,405	44,050
26 Helston Banking Company	1,503	1,474	1,513	1,496	1,399
27 Herefordshire Banking Company...	25,047	18,700	20,589	25,934	28,885
28 Knaresborough and Claro Bk. Co.	28,059	27,931	27,548	28,783	27,843
29 Kingsbridge Joint Stock Bank	3,952	3,155	3,374	3,822	3,850
30 Lancaster Banking Company	64,311	57,210	61,113	62,716	62,793
31 Leeds Banking Company	23,076	22,945	23,028	22,661	23,548
32 Leicestershire Banking Company...	86,060	69,367	75,514	80,155	83,475
33 Lincoln and Lindsey Banking Co.	51,620	52,754	52,874	48,932	45,521
34 Leamington Priors and Warwickshire Bank	13,875	11,017	11,238	11,834	11,160
35 Ludlow and Tenbury Bank	10,215	10,034	10,220	10,430	9,688
36 Moore & Robinson's Notts. Bank...	35,813	33,501	33,119	33,553	33,977
37 Nottingham and Notts. Banking Co.	29,477	27,751	27,226	27,600	27,745
38 National Provincial Bk. of England	442,371	443,149	425,540	422,186	425,576
39 North Wilts Banking Company ...	63,939	42,695	44,941	49,593	47,507
40 Northamptonshire Union Bank ...	84,356	77,855	82,518	81,893	81,975
41 Northamptonshire Banking Co. ...	26,401	26,402	26,779	26,353	23,750
42 North and South Wales Bank	63,951	44,572	46,061	47,283	48,621
43 Parr's Leicestershire Banking Co...	59,300	45,944	53,812	54,934	53,555
44 Saddleworth Banking Company ...	8,122	2,142	2,030	2,239	2,211
45 Sheffield Banking Company.....	35,843	36,057	37,065	34,230	35,343
46 Stamford, Spalding & Boston Bk. Co.	55,721	57,059	58,715	55,460	50,081
47 Stuckey's Banking Company	356,976	358,380	343,764	344,590	351,430
48 Shropshire Banking Company.....	47,951	51,346	50,446	47,272	42,355
49 Stourbridge and Kidderminster Bk.	56,830	56,639	56,915	57,167	56,319
50 Sheffield and Hallamshire Bank ...	23,524	23,563	23,263	23,306	23,750
51 Sheffield & Rotherham Jt. Stock Bk.	52,496	53,923	53,117	51,343	50,315
52 Swaledale and Wensleydale Bank..	54,372	53,120	52,299	52,606	52,533
53 Storey and Thomas's Bank	9,714	9,645	9,838	9,840	9,494
54 Wolverhampton & Staffordsh. Bk..	35,378	33,878	32,490	33,380	33,954
55 Wakefield and Barnsley Union Bk.	14,604	12,683	13,195	12,880	12,884
56 Whitehaven Joint Stock Bank ...	31,916	31,098	30,888	31,160	31,116
57 Warwick and Leamington Bk. Co.	37,124	31,668	31,663	31,317	30,072
58 West of England and South Wales District Bank	83,535	86,821	85,776	73,322	75,222
59 Wilts & Dorset Banking Company	76,162	71,496	72,525	74,238	76,662
60 West Riding Union Banking Co....	34,029	32,775	33,290	34,115	34,290
61 Whitechurch and Ellesmere Bk. Co.	7,475	5,510	5,204	5,190	5,635
62 Worcester City and County Bk. Co.	6,848	6,269	6,671	5,984	6,398
63 York Union Banking Company ...	71,240	70,905	71,316	69,475	68,164
64 York City and County Banking Co.	94,695	96,444	97,377	94,288	88,412
65 Yorkshire Banking Company	122,532	116,043	126,710	124,401	120,124

SUMMARY OF WEEKLY RETURNS OF BANKS OF ISSUE.

	Fixed Issues.	Oct. 7.	Oct. 14.	Oct. 21.	Oct. 28.
166 Private Banks.....	£4,607,455	£3,874,813	£4,003,952	£4,005,657	£3,981,668
65 Joint Stock Banks..	3,325,857	3,142,073	3,158,997	3,132,055	3,125,842
231 Totals	7,933,312	7,016,886	7,162,949	7,137,712	7,107,510

Average Weekly Circulation of these Banks or the month ending October 28th:—

Private Banks	£3,966,522
Joint-Stock Banks	3,139,742

Average Weekly Circulation of Private and Joint-Stock Banks ending as above £7,106,264

On a comparison of the above with the Returns for the month ending 30th September last, it shows:—

An increase in the notes of Private Banks, of	£366,624
An increase in the notes of Joint-Stock Banks, of	159,934

Total increase on the month.....£526,558

And as compared with the month ending 29th October, 1853, it shows—

A decrease in the notes of Private Banks, of	£101,765
A decrease in the notes of Joint-Stock Banks, of	23,192

Total decrease, as compared with the same period of last year

The following is the comparative state of the circulation, as regards the fixed issues—

The Private Banks are below their fixed issues.....	£640,933
The Joint-Stock Banks are below their fixed issues.....	186,116

Total below the fixed issues

Irish and Scotch Circulation Returns.

Average Circulation, and Coin held by the IRISH and SCOTCH BANKS during the four weeks ending Saturday, the 28th day of October, 1854.

IRISH BANKS.

NAME OF BANK.	Authorised Circulation.	Average Circulation during Four Weeks, ending as above.			Average Amt- of Gold & Silver Coin held during Four Weeks ending as above.
		£5 and upwards.	Under £5.	Total.	
	£	£	£	£	£
Bank of Ireland	3,738,428	1,997,375	1,145,100	3,142,475	821,358
Provincial Bank of Ireland	927,667	344,320	598,106	942,426	243,467
Belfast Bank	281,611	63,734	384,088	447,822	213,286
Northern Bank	243,440	36,878	219,530	256,409	88,244
Ulster Bank	311,079	61,945	388,407	450,352	168,346
National Bank of Ireland...	761,757	452,387	568,457	1,020,845	355,484
Carrick-on-Suir Nat. Bank	24,084	12,647	14,947	27,594	4,544
Clonmel National Bank ...	66,428	26,438	28,720	55,158	10,911
TOTALS (Irish Banks) ...	6,354,494	2,995,724	3,347,355	6,343,081	1,905,640

SCOTCH BANKS.

Bank of Scotland	300,485	129,797	274,350	404,147	141,313
Boyal Bank of Scotland ...	183,000	62,948	115,619	178,567	55,062
British Linen Company	438,024	192,770	315,636	508,406	154,664
Commercial Bk. of Scotland	374,880	170,963	345,061	516,025	180,132
National Bank of Scotland..	297,024	119,695	241,455	361,150	97,446
Union Bank of Scotland and Banking Com. in Aberdeen	415,690	176,627	352,249	528,876	161,296
Edinburgh & Glasgow Bk...	136,657	75,096	96,409	171,505	49,993
Aberdeen Town and Co. Bk.	70,133	38,907	78,813	117,721	51,683
North of Scotland Bk. Co...	154,319	91,133	110,582	201,715	54,597
Dundee Banking Company	33,451	15,083	25,092	40,176	8,433
Eastern Bank of Scotland...	33,636	17,779	26,822	44,601	12,055
Western Bank of Scotland..	337,938	159,887	396,883	556,770	271,330
Clydesdale Banking Co. ...	104,028	54,382	115,626	170,009	90,387
City of Glasgow Bank	72,921	81,875	105,710	187,585	124,630
Caledonian Banking Co. ...	53,434	29,453	51,652	81,105	37,275
Perth Banking Company ...	38,656	17,054	34,967	52,021	16,705
Central Bank of Scotland...	42,933	21,490	40,259	61,749	23,313
TOTALS (Scotch Banks)...	3,087,209	1,454,939	2,727,185	4,182,128	1,530,314

CIRCULATION RETURNS.

SUMMARY OF IRISH & SCOTCH RETURNS TO OCTOBER 23, 1854.

The Returns of Circulation of the Irish and Scotch Banks for the four weeks ending 28th October, when added together, give the following as the average weekly circulation of these banks during the past month, viz. :—

Average Circulation of the Irish Banks.. £6,343,081
Average Circulation of the Scotch Banks 4,182,128

Total Average Circulation of these Banks for the past month£10,525,209

On comparing these amounts with the Returns for the month ending 30th September last, they show—

Increase in the Circulation of Irish Banks £669,513
Increase in the Circulation of Scotch Banks 211,422

Total increase on the month £880,935

And as compared with the month ending October 29th, 1853, they show—

Increase in the Circulation of Irish Banks £76,029
Increase in the Circulation of Scotch Banks 194,439

Total increase on the year 270,468

The fixed issues of the Irish and Scotch Banks at the present time are given in the *Banking Almanac*, as follows :—

8 Banks in Ireland, allowed to issue... £5,354,464
18 Banks in Scotland, allowed to issue .. 3,067,299

26 Banks in all, allowed to issue..... £8,421,763

The following appears, therefore, to be the comparative state of the circulation :—

Irish Banks are below their fixed issue .. £11,413
Scotch Banks are above their fixed issue 1,094,939

Total above the fixed issue £1,083,526

The amounts of Gold and Silver held at the head offices of the several banks, during the past month, have been as follows :—

Gold and Silver held by the Irish Banks £1,905,600
Gold and Silver held by the Scotch Banks 1,530,516

Total of Gold and Silver Coin £3,435,954

Being an increase of £98,282 on the part of the Irish Banks, and an increase of £41,995 on the part of the Scotch Banks, on the several amounts held by them during the preceding month.

CIRCULATION OF THE UNITED KINGDOM TO OCTOBER 23, 1854.

The following is the state of the Note Circulation of the United Kingdom, for the month ending the 28th October, 1854.

Circulation of Notes for the Month ending 28th October, as compared with the previous month :

	Sept. 30.	Oct. 28.	Increase.	Decrease.
Bank of England	£19,616,626	£20,586,096	£969,470	—
Private Banks	3,599,898	3,966,322	366,624	—
Joint Stock Banks	2,979,808	3,139,742	159,934	—
Total in England	26,196,332	27,692,360	1,496,028	—
Scotland	3,970,706	4,182,128	211,422	—
Ireland	5,673,568	6,343,081	669,513	—
United Kingdom.....	£35,840,606	£38,217,569	£2,376,963	—

The comparison of the month ending October 29th, 1853, with the month ending October 28th, 1854, shows a decrease in the Bank of England circulation of £2,574,015, a decrease in Private Banks of £101,765, and a decrease in Joint Stock Banks of £23,192; being a total decrease in England of £2,698,972; while in Scotland there is an increase of £194,439; and in Ireland an increase of £76,029. Thus showing that the month ending 28th October, as compared with the same period last year, presents a decrease of £2,698,972 in England, and a decrease of £2,428,504 in the United Kingdom.

The return of Bullion in the Bank of England, for the month ending October 28th, gives an aggregate amount in both departments of £13,216,119. On a comparison of this with the Return for the month ending September 30th, there appears to be a decrease of £6,367; and a decrease of £2,096,747 as compared with the same period last year.

The stock of specie held by the Banks in Scotland and Ireland during the month ending 28th October, was £3,435,954; being an increase of £140,277 as compared with the return of the previous month, and an increase of £356,320 as compared with the corresponding period last year.

